SPORTS
Green Archers admit fielding ineligible player, to return '04 UAAP trophy

NEWS/A5
Say yes to corruption to entrap bribe-giver, says anticorruption czar

THE WORLD/A12
Angela Merkel makes history as Germany's 1st woman chancellor

LIFESTYLE/C1
Sweet dreams are made of screens; couch potatoes will be pleased

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Docs-turned-nurses still think, work like doctors

By Christine F. Figueroa

IF YOU THINK BEING A DOCTOR WILL PUT you in the express lane to a high-paying nursing job abroad, think again.

A number of Filipino doctors working as nurses overseas have been deported because of visa irregularities—they forgot their waivers to...

Say Chiz: Cops disappoint gathering of 'destabilizers'

By Michael Lim Ubac

BUTT HINDI NAG-BATO KAHAPON !

'Emergency' jitters linger

DOJ admits drafting takeover document

By Michael Lim Ubac and Jaime Ludwig Jimenez

MALACAÑANG DENIALS that President Macapagal-Arroyo will issue a proclamation of emergency rule vesting her with powers tantamount to martial law have failed to calm the fears of key sectors, including some of her allies.

The fears were heightened by the reported signing by Ms Arroyo of Executive Order No. 467 which directs government officials to coordinate the emergency proclamation and allowed her to arrest political detainees without warrants.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the "leaked" EO 467. As released by the Palace, the order—signed by Ms Arroyo and dated Oct. 5—omitted like a politically innocuous document dealing only with local administrations and not by vindicating powerful...

Fears of emergency rule were first raised by two opposition figures last month when they said the decision that the Department of Justice had drafted a proclamation that would enable Ms Arroyo to make peoples just don't demand law...

Palace officials quickly denied the President planned to declare martial law, which the late President Ferdinand Marcos imposed in 1972 to keep himself in power in the face of...

The Palace appeared to make no distinction between the terms emergency rule and martial law, adding to the confusion.

On Monday, Senate Majority Leader Francisco Pangilinan said the nation's when he said he had drafted a proclamation for a "state of national emergency" that would enable...

MAN BRAVES WOMAN POWER. Antonio Tinio, chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, is blocked by an all-woman dispersal team deployed for the first time on Tuesday by the Manila Police District to counter harsh criticism of the violent dispersal of rallies by the opposite sex in the past seven days. This one close to Mendiola was also dispersed on the spot but outwardly with a kinder, gentler touch.

FVR minces no words, says it's a lot of B.S.

By Nikko Dizon and Luige B. del Puerto

ALL THE TALK ABOUT MARTIAL law and coup attempts against President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration amounts to bullets, according to former President Fidel Ramos.

"This is dated to the point," Ramos said in a press conference Monday night. "Continuing media reports, coffee shop speculations, political intrigues and armed rumors to the effect that martial law will soon be ordered by the government or that, on the other side, Ms Arroyo will be a coup attempt by anti-Arroyo forces, are all BS... and I don't mean bachelor of science. They are just that—vast nonsense."

Ramos arrived in Manila at 6:45 p.m. Monday on board Lufthansa flight 5741 from a series of meetings in the European Union.

He is scheduled to leave again today for China.

Ramos said that from his latest trip, he had gathered that even the international community was experiencing "general clamor" over the political situation in the Philippines.

"Such talk about martial law or police-military oppression, or...

Gonzales links Venable to Aragoncillo case

By Armando N. Nocum

THE LOBBY FIRM CONTRACTED by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to seek American meeting for President Macapagal-Arroyo's choice to attend the Commission was also tasked with re-rubbishing "the smear of the destabilization moves by the opposition) to the United States against the Arroyo administration," Gonzales' lawyer said yesterday.

Antonio Bautista offered no...

OUT OF CONFINEMENT. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales is helped with his robe as he arrives at the Supreme Court for a final legal...

Literature gives voice to dissent, oppressed, says RM laureate

By DJ Yap

MEN AND WOMEN OF LETTERS have propelled Philippine revolutions and events. But in the age of text messaging and e-mail, is literature still a relevant form of political...

For Nicomedes Lucilito, professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines and 1999 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and Creative Communication Arts, the role of literature in giving a voice to the people, the weak and the oppressed is as strong as ever.

"Literature gives a voice to those that have been silenced," Lumbera said yesterday in Filipino at a press conference called by the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers' Rights and the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno.

The labor groups concluded that they called "state terrorism and fascism" marked by the successive killings of Unionized...

BABE'S BACK. From his solid-out days in Sydney, Michael Bublé, the Canadian crooner, who's a local favorite, arrives in Manila on Tuesday for a one-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum today, Oct. 12. (Story on Page A22.)

GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY?

Squatters big NorthRail problem

By Cielos S. Bacino and Gerry Lirio

[illegible]

AS ECONOMIC PLANning Secretary Romy Durano was so early as December 2002, that the relocation of squatters was going to be one of the major obstacles to the ambitious Northrail project...

An Inquirer TEAM Report

Project Editor Fernando del Mundo

Joining the groups in their protest was the University of the Philippines Law Center, which conducted a study on the project following the signing of a $503-million contract between North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) and China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (Group) (CNMEC) in 2003. (See Special Report on this page, above)

SC petitioned to stop railway project

By Armando N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana

REPRESENTATIVES OF SQUATTER groups facing eviction petitioned the Supreme Court yesterday to stop the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo from implementing the Northrail project—a $2.2-B commuter train system that will link Caloocan City and Malolos, Bulacan.

In a 26-page petition, the complainants asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order and declare the Northrail-CNMEC contract null and void for being unconstitutional.

It cited the absence of a public bidding, proper certification of available funding and proof of UN-NEDA's license to act as contractor.

The petition said that the loan agreements did not appear to have...

A3
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005
Second FRONTPAGE

Army says info drive no loyalty check

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IS CHECKING ON ITS troops to find out, among other things, if they still trust the commander-in-chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, and remain loyal to the chain of command, two top Army officers said yesterday.

Although they denied it was a "loyalty check," Army chief of staff Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano and Brig. Gen. Melchor Diodulo, chief of the Army's western mindanao command, confirmed in separate phone interviews with the Inquirer that they had been going around the country to conduct an information campaign among officers and enlisted men.

Diodulo, who supervised the information drive in the Visayas, said 700 enlisted men and officers attended seminars from Oct. 1 to 8 where the topics taken up included the drone's threats and the soldiers' concerns such as health services, the grievance system, housing and clothing allowances.

At the end, said Diodulo, two questions were posed to the soldiers: "Do you believe the Armed Forces is apolitical? Do you have trust and confidence in the chain of command?

"These questions were also included in written questionnaires that were handed out to the soldiers," Diodulo said, adding that 20 of the 700 respondents, or 2.8 percent, answered they did not believe the Armed Forces of the Philippines was apolitical. Five respondents, or less than one percent, were held enough to disclose that they did not trust in the chain of command.

"Generally, we believe that we're apolitical and we have trust and confidence in the chain of command," Diodulo said.

Yano, who headed the information campaign in Mindanao, said no such questions were posed to the soldiers there. In general, "the respondents] down almost the mandate of the Armed Forces under the Constitution... that we should be apolitical."

Yano said the seminars were continuing but he would not say how many of the Army's 75,000 troops had been reached already.

"This is just an information drive. We are just getting reports from unit troops," Yano said.

Diodulo said the information drive had been planned even before Hello Garci, Pres. Fernando Poe Jr., now retired, and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan testified at a Senate investigation into alleged election irregularities on Sept. 28.

Soldiers and Sailors were purportedly tackled and ordered even marshaled for defying the President's order not to testify. Filing more reports of military unrest which began after military officials were implicated in the "Hello Garci" election fraud tapes. (Nona Pazolbiguan)

Debate on Charter change fails to take off in Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

WITH NOT ENOUGH PALMS BOOED on the floor, the "great debate" on Charter change failed to start in the House of Representatives last night.

The chamber adjourned at 8:42 p.m. although Rep. Constantino Chiongbian, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments and Speaker Jose de Venecia's patriotman in the proposed shift in a parliamentary federal type of government, was prepared to debate the long delayed sponsorship speech on Committee Report No. 1866.

The report contained House concurrent resolution No. 413 calling on the Senate and the House of Representatives to merge and become a Constituent Assembly and introduce amendments to the Constitution.

Among the salient points of the proposed amendments is the Cusi election approved by the committee last Sept. 28 was to reduce the president to a "symbolic head of state."

Under a parliamentary government, all executive powers will be exercised by the Prime Minister who will also be the commander in chief.

Had Jaraula sponsored the report on the floor, the Cha-cha express expected by De Venecia could have gone full steam ahead.

The chamber deferred floor debates on Cha-cha for one more day to accommodate differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo's party, The Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino which, on Thursday, had withdrawn support from Cha-cha.

According to congressional sources, Lakas-CMD said Kampi officials were, at press time, still "negotiating" to appease Kampi with additions for slots in the Commission on Appointments.

Kampi president Rep. Ronaldo Puno had threatened yesterday to withdraw the signatures of three of its members – Representatives Luis Villafuerte, John Alfonso and Augusto Baculio – from the committee report, so that it will be "re-committed" to the committee on constitutional amendments.

Of the 45 committee members, only 23 signed the report.

Kampi spokesperson Rep. Ambrosio Miranda of Ledesma said Kampi should be allowed because "only funds are not allowed to change floor minds."

But Jaraula said "no way."

"The purpose of validity of the committee report, it can't be nullified by reasons of the withdrawal of signatures. But they can vote against the report in plenary session," said Jaraula.

To support Cha-cha, the 32 members Kampi set three conditions. Before floor debates for two months Lower for recommendations of the Consultative Commission which will finish its task on Dec. 15[illegible] the issue of the Senate's participation in the constitutional convention, and provide a transitory provision requiring all Con-Ass delegates not to run in the next parliamentary elections.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said that "most Senate members were not against initiatives to amend the charter."

"There is divergence of opinion in the Senate on the issue of Charter change. But a majority of us agree that the present Constitution can stand some improvement. Most of the senators prefer a constitutional convention rather than a constituent assembly," he said.

Fr. Reyes decries harassment

ACTIVIST PRIEST FR. ROBERT REYES (SALAD) raised the military of attempting to intimidate the small group of mostly middle-class anti-Arroyo protesters that regularly gathers at the base of the Ninoy Aquino Monument in Edsa.

Reyes yesterday claimed that about 20 fully armed soldiers dropped by their "unit of hope" at the monument on Monday night to question several of the group's members.

"This is very disturbing, more even the military is getting involved," Reyes said in a phone interview.

"In this part of the OPR [calibrated preemptive response policy] I" he asked, referring to the government's new "no permit, no rally" policy against protesters.

Reyes said the group, which will celebrate on Oct. 17 its 1000th day of prayer to solve the political crisis, mostly prays and lasts at the monument.

He said it was afraid of protest that did not inconvenience the public so that even Director Vidal Quarral, the Metro Manila [illegible] had instructed his men to keep their distance.

He said it was usually the police that went to intimidate them, by letting the group feel their "strong presence."

Reyes said Bantay Kotpas and Diego Manuel were keeping watch over the group's tent and chairs at the base of the monument on Monday when the soldiers came.

"Around 10 p.m., a group of soldiers arrived. Four of them came forward to ask us what we were doing there," Reyes said in a phone interview.

"We told them we were guarding the tent and the chairs," he said.

The soldiers left after 20 minutes but their visit unnerved the members.

"They carried long firearms. It was dark because the lights had not been switched on. We were really scared," Reyes said.

Reyes appealed to the authorities to leave the group alone as its presence on Edsa has been "very quiet." (Jaiga A. del Prado)

4.8-quake rocks Catanduanes; DPWH chief orders inspections

A MINOR EARTHQUAKE REGISTERING 4.8 in magnitude shook the island province of Catanduanes Monday but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

At the same time, as a result of the devastating earthquake that leveled large areas of Pakistan, India and Kashmir, Secretary Simeon Datumanong of the Department of Public Works and Highways personnel to inspect the country's roads and bridges.

Datumanong said he had also directed city and municipal building officials to inspect government facilities and see if they needed repairs.

A senior published on the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology web site said yesterday's quake occurred at 7:06 p.m. about 168 kilometers east of Catanduanes' capital, Virac, in the Philippine Sea.

Local media reports said there were no signs of damage or reports of injuries. Minor aftershocks were reported in the area, according to the seismology institute, which reported the quake's strength at 4.8 on the Richter scale.

An earlier report from the Hong Kong Observatory put the quake at 5.5 on the Richter scale.

Catanduanes is about 250 kilometers southeast of Manila.

Pakistan noted the high number of deaths from the South Asia earthquake, which is believed would top 40,000, was mainly due to people being trapped under collapsed buildings.

"No matter of prevention is better than a pound of cure," he said in a statement. "We can prevent this by ensuring the stability of all major infrastructure facilities in the country."

Lolita B. Salamanca, AFP

NBI: US worried FBI files may have gone to Reds

By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERED classified documents allegedly stolen by Leandro Aragoncillo and Michael Roy Aquino may have ended up in the hands of communists, according to an official of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ronaldo Diaz, chief of the NBI's Internal Affairs, said at a recent meeting US officials noted that former leftists were at the forefront of so-called destabilization efforts and were active in the country.

"They said there was a possibility that the classified government information [from the White House and FBI (the Federal Bureau of Investigation)] are now in the hands of the local communists like the New People's Army," Diaz told reporters yesterday.

Diaz said that as far as the US government was concerned, the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was on top of the list of terrorist organizations in the Philippines.

The transport chief also said that no US government officials benefited from the Aragoncillo-Aquino espionage activities "including alleged Philippine counterparts."

"This was made clear by the [US] Attorney General in his press conference during the same day that Aragoncillo and Aquino were arrested," Diaz said.

It was also learned at the meeting with US officials that the leaked documents were "selectively chosen" by the lawmakers in the Philippines.

"It appears that only information unfavorable to the present administration were used while information that was unflattering to the lawmakers were kept [from the public]," Diaz said.

He said US authorities would likely invoke the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to gather evidence in the Philippines for the Aragoncillo-Aquino case.

Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American working as an FBI analyst, and Aquino, a fugitive Filipino police colonel, were arrested in the US last month and accused of conspiring to steal classified US government documents which they allegedly passed on to Philippine politicians.

Meanwhile yesterday, Bayanmalaya, a pro-Cabinet group, said Malacañang may have been recipient of the information stolen by Aragoncillo from the White House.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang was in good to ask any Cabinet official, including Interior and Local Government Secretary Michael Defensor, who has admitted to having met Aragoncillo when he visited jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, about the matter.

Defensor yesterday said Estrada showed him some of the latter's copies of the US counterspy reports on the Philippines when he visited the disgraced leader in late 2004.

He said Estrada had told him the documents came from the US Central Intelligence Agency. With a report from AFP, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Pamatong files treason raps vs GMA

IMPEACHMENT OF THE PRESIDENT basically from lawsuits, lawyer Ely Pamatong filed himself off yesterday to the Office of the Ombudsman on the treason charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly rigging last year's presidential election.

In a 14-page complaint, Pamatong said Mr. Arroyo's public apology at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal was made "unbelievably and unreasonably" and "did not legitimize her political status as an impostor and usurper of the Office of the President," which he said was won by the late Fernando Poe Jr.

By her apology, Mr. Arroyo "knowingly and willfully abandoned the presumption of innocence and plead of that she was guilty of the worst capital offense involving electoral fraud," said the complaint, which a filing clerk formally accepted after Pamatong took an oath and signed it.

Pamatong, who was disqualified by the Comelec as a nuisance candidate in the same elections, called Mr. Arroyo "an evil woman who has committed heinous crimes that deserve no less than necessary extermination."

The complaint also accused Mr. Arroyo of plunder, corruption, usurpation of authority, obstruction of justice and "unconstitutional imposition of martial law," among other charges.

Pamatong himself is facing charges of rebellion slashed filed by police after he attacked arresting social rights of Angat streets in Metro Manila in June 2004. Jaime Ellorin

Literature gives voice to dissent, oppressed, says RM laureate

Front page A1

mente killings of trade union leaders and workers.

Then as now, writers and artists have emerged as a force every time a ruling power becomes an instrument of abuse, Lumbera said.

The poet, playwright and essayist is a member of Bukluran Para Sa Kalayaan, a movement working for ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo over alleged cases of electoral fraud.

He observed that other writers and artists were active in the anti-Arroyo movement, particularly those belonging to the Concerned Artists of the Philippines.

According to Lumbera, poems, short stories, essays and other literary forms "continue to be spread from one to the other [and] remain alive...and people still turn to these oppressed organs in the existing days."

He read a poem in Filipino dedicated to "workers and union leaders who have been killed by the military or police under Ms Arroyo's government."

He said he had resisted the poem's urge, and read it publicly as one talk or lecture for victims of human rights abuses.

It speaks of demolished houses, burned workers' unions, the drama of oppression, and of muzzled protests and repression grown rotten.

Part of it reads: "Mga bisig at dalubhasa na tayong gumba / Kinitil na ng lupang tayo pang sinaka' / Unyong sinunog, sarhang pinutulo' Mga dila' mga sisng hanong ng tambuka' Ito mighit sa among mga adhika' Pwera tang pinipi tapos'y magbalika."

Lumbera has written two other contemporary political poems, "Agnayan sa Encantada Lumia" and "Hello, Garci."

Literature need not lose its power in the age of technology, said the 73-year-old Lumbera.

He insisted, the literature is a very effective medium in spreading words of dissent not just in the Philippines but anywhere in the world, he said.

He added that works written in Filipino could be translated to any number of languages.

He himself is no stranger to technology. He regularly corresponds and sends his written works through e-mail.

Lumbera went underground when Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in 1972. He was arrested in January 1974 and detained until December of that year.

Gonzales links Venable ...

Front page A1

Gonzales appeared at the Supreme Court yesterday.

Bautista said certain elements in the opposition were lobbying the US Congress to "cancel" Washington's visa-withdrawing support from the Arroyo administration.

Would alert opposition

He said the opposition seemed to take advantage of the rift between the Philippines and the United States as a result of Ms Arroyo's decision to recall the Philippine military contingent from Iraq to save Filipino worker Angelo de la Cruz from executioners by kidnappers.

"They even rebut [Gonzales] tonight too much down, through the US lobby firm Mamdis LLP," Bautista said.

He said the firm was somehow linked to the "brochure" over the theft of sensitive US government documents by Leandro Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American analyst of the National Security Investigations.

Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino, a former officer of the Philippine National Police, were arrested last month at their residences in the United States for allegedly passing on to opposition leaders in the Philippines stolen US documents purportedly damaging to Ms Arroyo.

Bautista said naming the person who referred Gonzales to Venable and those who paid for the lobby firm's services at the Senate inquiry into the Venable contract "may affect [the] sub judicata [rule]."

The lawyer said naming those people at the Sept. 21 hearing of the Senate would have alerted the opposition, especially Sen. Panfilo Lacson, that Venable was linked to the Aragoncillo case.

Lacson is one of opposition leaders who claimed that he received information from Aquino.

Exclusive to GMA

Bautista said the national security implications of the fact that Gonzales had discussed the Venable issue "exclusively" with the President were among the reasons Gonzales could not name the people who funded the lobby deal.

"This admission prompted this joint inquiry, who argued on behalf of the Senate blue ribbon committee, to conclude that contrary to the claims of Gonzales, the President had known about the contract from the beginning.

Arroyo told the Supreme Court that there was no admission that the President knew about the contract but it changed the "picture."

"The President knew about the contract ... Gonzales now says, 'Yes, we discussed it.' Now the picture is entirely different," the senior said.

With the admission, the President has been formally dragged into the issue, according to Arroyo.

Bautista said Gonzales could not be faulted for not revealing the people and donors behind the lobby deal because he was still in the dark about their identities during the Senate hearing.

"He knows who knows ... He does not know who funded ...," Bautista said in reply to a question from Associate Justice Ruben Pardo.

Executive privilege

But now that Gonzales knows the identities of the financiers, Bautista said the national security adviser was willing to name them in an executive session.

During the oral arguments, several justices suggested that Gonzales better reveal what he knew about the Venable deal to secure his freedom, but Bautista said this would affect the country's security.

"The information, how can Secret one reveals with the SS," he said, adding that the deal with Venable involved "counter-destabilization moves."

Besides, Bautista said, the President "refused" to free him from a conversation that occurred "exclusively" between the two of them.

"He cannot reveal it without breaking the confidence of the President," Bautista said as he admitted that Gonzales had consulted the President before entering into the contract with Venable.

For that, he said Gonzales should be accorded his right to "executive privilege."

Executive privilege is the practice of the President or presidential assistants of refusing to answer questions posed in congressional hearings by claiming separation of powers.

Senator Arroyo earlier said that the Senate hearing could not be covered by executive privilege because, as Gonzales had testified, Ms Arroyo was not privy to the deal.

Waived

But other justices questioned Gonzales because it was impossible for him not to know the people behind the deal as he was the national security adviser.

For his part, Associate Justice Antonio Carpio asserted that the President had "waived" executive privilege by allowing Gonzales to go to the Senate hearing.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide said the Senate could have cited Gonzales in contempt because the "Senate knows that he knew."

Bautista claimed that he had a letter from Venable showing that the contract with Gonzales had been rescinded, but Davide noted that the would not cure its supposed "infirmities."

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Corrections

IN THE OCT. 9 ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo—"NOW PUBLISHED goes to London"...misspelled the name of the well-known department store in London. The correct name is Harrods—not Harrod's.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 10 ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo—"SOMEONE KNOWS NO AGE"—insisted that Kashmir is a Himalayan kingdom. Kashmir is a region—not a kingdom—in the Himalayas.

* * *

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Luz to take citizenship question to appeals court

HE POINTS TO THE OPINION OF TWO COURTS

Maricland Gloria's Manzanares for Free Enterprise secretary general Guillermo "Bill" Luz said he would take to the Court of Appeals the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) ruling on his citizenship.

The Comelec earlier ruled that Luz was a Canadian citizen and could not run or participate in the country's electoral process.

"It is clear that my lawyers will be bringing the matter to the CA where I intend to show that I am Filipino through and through," Luz said in a statement.

Luz, who is also executive director of the Makati Business Club, said he was still "not in a position" to comment on the Comelec decision because he had not received the copy.

"I am surprised to learn from the media that Comelec, with all its workload, had time to rule on the citizenship issue of my personal involvement in the 2004 elections," he said.

In July, Luz led MBC officers in withdrawing their support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and asking her to step down amid the "Hello Garci" scandal.

On Oct. 7, Comelec commissioners unanimously declared that Luz remained a naturalized Canadian citizen when he returned to the country in 1978 to stay for good. They said the businessman, born in the Philippines to Filipino parents who took him to Canada when he was still a minor, failed to show proof that he had reacquired his Filipino citizenship.

The declaration came after opposition lawyer Apolino Pimentel Jr. questioned the nationality of Luz. Pimentel alleged that since Luz was not a Filipino citizen, he should be charged with violating provisions of the Omnibus Election Code.

Luz's younger brother, Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz came to his defense, saying it was up to the courts and not the Comelec to rule on the nationality of anyone.

"I don't understand why the Comelec is suddenly announcing that my brother is not a Filipino citizen. That is for the courts to determine," the younger Luz said in an interview, adding that the Comelec's main mandate is to ensure the votes in an election.

Just last month, the DepEd undersecretary was reportedly dismissed by Malacañang for refusing to honor three questioned checks issued to anti-impeachment Rep. Antonio H. Ubay for a scholarship program. He is still with DepEd.

The younger Luz said that both their parents were Filipino and all their nine children were born in the Philippines and reared with Philippine passports.

"So no lawyer but I know that if you're born in the Philippines and both of your parents are Filipinos their sons' nationality is Filipino," he said. Jeannie Aning, Alcuin Papa and Lydia B. Aubuevarria

Legarda scores 'bling bling' VP's P131-M budget

LORDS LEGARDA, THE ELIZABETH AND defeated vice presidential candidate, yesterday accused Vice President Noli de Castro of wasting the people's money through extravagance, describing him as a "bling bling" Vice President who was too preoccupied with his commercial ventures.

According to the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, "bling bling" is slang for elaborate jewelry and clothing and the appreciation of it. It is used to refer to all forms of showy style.

Legarda criticized De Castro's proposed budget for his office in 2006, saying the Vice President was asking from Congress "more money to burn" while millions of Filipinos were going hungry.

She asked Congress to consider slashing the budget of De Castro's office, saying he had not done anything significant for the people.

"Since Noli has accomplished nothing, he doesn't deserve to be allotted millions just so he can parade like a delusional rock star," she said.

She said De Castro's proposed budget of P131.4million in 2006 was "bloated" and insensitive in face of the fiscal crisis that the country is going through.

She said the P58 million increase that De Castro was seeking for "miscellaneous expenses" was unjustified.

She noted that De Castro was asking for P2.4 million for the purchase of an "official vehicle" for his use, and another P5 million as transportation money for next year.

"If you divided P5 million by 365 days, that means Noli will have a transportation allowance of P13,698 for each and every day of 2006, counting weekends and holidays. That is a waste of taxpayers' money, considering that he is now by many as a nonperforming official," Legarda said.

Legislators earlier questioned De Castro's proposal to increase his office's budget for "commercial functions and technical services" from P65.5 million to P93.2 million.

They have vowed to scrutinize every centavo of De Castro's proposed budget, including the P6 million he wants for 2006 for "confidential and intelligence expenses." Cynthia D. Rodano

Antigraft czar: Say 'yes' to corruption

By Dexter L. Lucas

ARTHAS OF KLEPTOS OUT AN OUTright "no," government officials and employees should say "yes" to people who attempt to bribe them in exchange for favors, the man tasked with cleaning up the once notoriously corrupt Hong Kong bureaucracy said yesterday.

"If they attempt to bribe you, ask them to come back while you think it with your boss," Tony Kwok, former chief of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, told members of the Asia Society Philippines Foundation in Makati City.

Doing so, he added, would allow higher officials to alert authorities like the Ombudsman to conduct an entrapment operation and catch the bribe giver red-handed.

"Don't just say 'no' because nothing will happen," said Kwok, consultant to a government anticorruption project headed by the European Union.

Kwok had headed Hong Kong's ICAC until 2003, presiding over the former BVIR colony's transformation from one of the most corrupt societies in Asia to one of the world's cleanest in present.

Anticorruption agency

Kwok called for strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, saying that as the government's primary anticorruption agency it needed more power and resources to be effective as it is currently burdened with functions.

Kwok noted that while working closely with outgoing Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo, who was the first to invite him to serve as a consultant in the Arroyo administration, he found the agency had substantial weaknesses.

"For example, the Ombudsman has no power of arrest," Kwok said. "If he sees a government official in the act of being bribed, he cannot do anything about it. He has to first call the police. This is ridiculous."

Among the powers he said the Ombudsman should be given is the authority to pry open bank accounts of state officials suspected of graft and corruption.

"In the head of ICAC, I could authorize bank accounts to be examined," he said, lamenting the country's rigid bank secrecy laws that prevent scrutiny of suspects' assets.

Checking of asset trail

"For an effective anticorruption campaign, you should be able to check the asset trail," he said.

Kwok also pointed out that the Ombudsman's office started with only 15 investigators tasked with policing a 1.3-million strong state bureaucracy. Hong Kong, on the other hand, had 900 investigators posting over the activities of a lean government workforce.

"I understand that the number [of investigators at the Ombudsman] is now up to 90," he said. "That could go up to 200 if the bill [amending the Ombudsman's charter] is passed."

Marcelo's resignation lamented

Meanwhile, a coalition of anticorruption advocacy groups has lamented Marcelo's resignation, describing it as a "big loss."

"It is sad for us to see good and credible public servants like him leave government at this crucial time," the Coalition Against Corruption said in a statement. "His resignation will affect the administration's ability to pursue its anticorruption reform agenda."

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quizon

It's race against time for quake rescuers

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN-CONTROLLED KASHMIR—Rescue teams raced to find survivors in the rubble and comfort the suffering Monday as Pakistan said the death toll from the weekend earthquake could hit 40,000.

Anger and looting erupted over the speed of the massive relief effort as hundreds of thousands of people, many left hungry and homeless by the quake's destruction, awaited help from recovery and building difficult conditions.

More than 48 hours after the 7.6-magnitude quake wiped away entire villages and buried victims under piles of debris, the full scope of the devastation—and the enormous cost in human lives—began to emerge.

"It is a whole generation that has been lost in the worst-affected areas," Pakistani Army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan told AFP.

A senior official said the quake had killed between 30,000 and 40,000 people in the mountainous region of northeast Pakistan, and injured another 80,000.

The quake centered in fury in northern Pakistan and Pakistani-held Kashmir, a mountainous region where untold numbers of children were crushed when schools and houses collapsed under the worst quake to hit Pakistan in decades.

The huge international rescue effort that has swept into Pakistan has been severely hampered by the treacherous terrain and huge quake-triggered landslides that wiped out many roads, even though more reopened Monday.

"We are not receiving our dead today. We are reconciling ourselves with the government," said magistrate Raja Mohammad Irshad, in the remote reserve of Bagh. He lost a niece-in-law, three nephews and two cousins.

"We are asking whether they think we are human beings or animals, or non-living things," he said.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-held Kashmir, people marauded military trucks that had just arrived and took food, tents, blankets and medicines, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

Dire gossip border into a genial station to get fed to hunt wood for cooking and warmth, while others searched government carts and jeeps.

"People are starving. They have lost all their family members, their belongings," local resident Munir Shah told AFP. "Everything is gone, people are buried alive. Nobody is helping us to find them."

An AFP reporter who flew over Pakistani-held Kashmir in a military helicopter described scenes of utter devastation. The ground was littered with the ruins of demolished houses.

In open fields, hundreds of people waited for help beside the dead and wounded.

Residents in some places dug with their bare hands to find their loved ones, while rescue teams with traffic dogs and specialist equipment hunted for survivors and set up field hospitals to cope with the injured.

Offers of aid continued to pour in from around the world. The United States said it had provided $50 million, the World Bank offered $100 million and the Asian Development Bank pledged $10 million. The energy-rich Gulf states of Kuwait and United Arab Emirates offered $200 million to counteract signals by the earthquake.

Survivors were facing an array of problems—freezing overnight temperatures, rain, landslides, scarce food, little shelter, no communications networks and almost non-existent healthcare. AFP

Iraqi woman, son rescued after 60 hours

BLAMMO—AN IRAQI WOMAN and her six-year-old son were freed in a "miraculous" rescue after they were trapped for more than 60 hours in the rubble of a quake-hit apartment block in the Pakistani capital, a government official said Tuesday.

Rescuers heard the woman's faint cries and found her cradling her 2-year-old child in a small air pocket in the wreckage of the building around 1.8 p.m. Monday (1700 GMT), junior Interior Minister Shehzad Waseem said.

Glenn erupted when Pakistani soldiers and a British rescue team using sniffer dogs finally dug the pair out of the collapsed 10-story Shaqalla Towers complex around two-thirds later, he said.

"We have recovered an Iraqi woman and her 2-year-old son alive from the debris of the building. It's miraculous. It has been a real miracle," Waseem told AFP.

"They could hear the woman's voice. It was very quiet and weak but she was speaking in Arabic so they couldn't understand. But they established the link and [called]," said Muzaffar Ahmed, a policeman at the scene.

The boy had no physical injuries but was being kept under observation in an intensive care unit at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, said doctor Azhar Baig.

The boy's survival was bittersweet for the mother, who says at least that her husband had died, Baig said.

The woman, 32, was being operated on for a broken leg, he said.

Another 40 to 50 people were still trapped beneath the mammoth pile of smashed concrete and twisted metal although some of those are believed to have died, Waseem and police officials said.

Five people have now been brought out alive from the destroyed building, an upscale development where many foreign workers lived, and 30 people are confirmed dead. AFP

RESIDENTS evacuate their injured relatives to safer place in Bakakot Oct. 10.

Death toll from Guatemala mudslides could hit 2,000

GUATEMALA CITY—THE DEATH toll from devastating mudslides in Guatemala could reach 2,000 as rescuers suspended their search Monday for hundreds of people buried in a muddy tomb.

President Oscar Berger declared three days of mourning for the 652 people confirmed dead in Guatemala since Tropical Storm Stan unleashed unrelenting rains last week that triggered floods and avalanches of mud.

Up to 1,400 people are missing in the communities of Panabaj and Tzanchaj in a lake region 100 km west of Guatemala City.

Guatemalan and Spanish firefighters had little hope of finding survivors as they searched with sniffer dogs five days after the landslide.

"This is a temporary suspension, because you can't work in this terrain," said firefighters' spokesperson Mario Cruz. "We are waiting for the government's decision to resume work or declare it a cemetery," which would seal in the tomb.

Cruz said earlier that only 57 had been found so far in Panabaj, including just one in the last three days.

The local mayor has asked the central government to declare the devastated area a mass grave.

"If it had been an earthquake, you could hope to find survivors, but here in the mud, I don't think so," said a Spanish firefighter. "It could take a month for it to dry up." Hundreds of villagers in the Mayan region had flocked to the landslide since Wednesday to try to dig out their friends, relatives and neighbors.

Geronimo Mendoza, a farmer wearing a straw hat, had carried a shovel on his shoulder as he joined the search effort Monday.

"I had a lot of friends in those houses," said Mendoza, 63. "I went to Panabaj yesterday to give them a dignified burial." Men of Panabaj and Tzanchaj, officials estimate that hundreds have also disappeared or died.

Several towns were "destroyed" and another 14 were flooded near Guatemala's border with Mexico, Gustavo Meoño, mayor of Guatemala City, said.

Stan slammed the Mexican state of Veracruz Tuesday as a hurricane before being downgraded to a tropical storm.

At least 72 people were killed in El Salvador, 28 in Mexico and 11 in Nicaragua.

The United Nations said it was launching a $11-million dollar flash appeal to assist victims in Guatemala. AFP

Vaccines, drugs won't control bird flu, experts say

WASHINGTON—MANY GOVERNments around the world are stockpiling antiviral drugs and some companies are trying to speed up vaccine production in the hope of having an effective defense against the deadly avian flu pandemic, an expert cautioned on Monday.

Michael Osterholm, an infectious-disease expert who has been studying the risk of pandemic flu for decades and is a US government adviser, said governments should be preparing to cope with the pandemic instead of relying entirely on the hope of using vaccines and drugs to control it.

"If the current avian flu begins to easily infect humans, it will move too quickly for drugs and vaccines to be of much use, Osterholm said.

"It doesn't matter if we have a vaccine now or not. We can't make it," Osterholm said in a telephone interview.

The H5N1 bird flu virus has killed at least 65 people in four Asian nations since late 2003, and has killed or forced the destruction of tens of millions of poultry.

Experts say it is running steadily and fear it will eventually acquire the changes it needs to spread easily from person to person.

If it does, it could sweep around the world in months or even weeks and could kill millions of people—as many as 150 million, according to the same diet forecasts by the World Health Organization.

Others argue the human people is harder than any other flu with respiratory symptoms, fever and other common efforts but it will kill many more than the 300,000 people who die of ordinary flu each year around the world.

People have known about the risk of a flu pandemic for some time, a long time, said Osterholm, an infectious-disease specialist at the University of Minnesota who advises the federal government on such issues.

"We have had a pandemic flu plan in a planning process since 1976," Osterholm said. "Nobody has completed it. It bears one of the most long-standing conceptual processes in Washington. Nobody wants to believe that modern medical science can't handle something." Reuters

SPORTS TV
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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

REGISTRATION ONGOING!

Archers offer to forfeit 2004 title

La Salle finds own cager ineligible, accepts responsibility to UAAP board

THE TITLE that made Franz Pumaren and former Ring Archer Mac Cardona champs even top league due to a scholarship

By Jasmine W. Payo

PUTTING SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY AHEAD OF varsity glory, De La Salle University said it is willing to forfeit its 2004 UAAP men's basketball crown after admitting yesterday it had been unknowingly fielding an ineligible player in the last three years.

In a statement released by the office of executive vice president Fr. Gerardino Quetingco, La Salle acknowledged that the high school records of a player on its current roster "turned out to be spurious," and was therefore "neither eligible for admission to DLSU nor for participation as a member of (UAAP) basketball teams."

The statement added that La Salle is willing to accept any sanctions from the league "including returning the Season 67 championship trophy and forfeiting its second place position this season."

La Salle, however, did not disclose the cager's name.

"We were strongly advised by our legal counsel not to name the player," said Lito Tanjanco, La Salle's representative to the UAAP board.

"The school still has to find out who's culpable," added Tanjanco. "In the event that the player is culpable, consequences have to be faced. But (how) could also be you, you don't (we're not culpable. We don't know yet."

Though unnamed, Cholo's season and the player was a key player in

15,000 troops, cops to secure SEAG

A SECURITY DOB force composed of 15,000 police and soldiers will be on duty to thwart terrorist attacks and other threats when the country hosts the 23rd Southeast Asian Games next month, the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (PhilSoc) said yesterday.

Authorities will not be leaving anything to chance when 5,000 athletes from 10 countries converge in Manila and several key areas amid reports that Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bombers could carry out suicide bombings, they said.

"They will be (supervised by security)" whenever the athletes go in functions and events, said Philippine Olympic Committee head and PhilSoc chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"We are doing precaution(s) for teams (of security)," he told foreign correspondents, stressing the hosts' collaborate officials will also be working closely with others from the region for the sake of the games that Southeast Asia's first-ever at least 20 people dead.

Regional intelligence officials said they believe at least two suicide bombers have been hiding out in Mindanao.

Police Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, the Games' security chief, said police units were on standby outside Manila where there will be scheduled events have also been put on heightened alert.

"There will be 15,000 policemen and other (more) multiple ... (from) the armed forces, he said. ...AFP

UNAUTHORIZED DUPLICATION IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN

OCTOBER 12, 2005

ctober

RAMALLAH, WEST Bank—A summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas expected this week has been postponed until the end of October, officials on both sides said Monday.

Sharon and Abbas had been expected to hold their third meeting of the year on Tuesday but their senior aides were unable to reach agreement on the summit agenda.

"The meeting has been postponed until the end of the month as there have been insufficient preparations," Palestinian Authority spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP.

A statement issued by Sharon's office confirmed that it was now hoped that a summit would take place after Abbas returns from a summit with US President George W. Bush on Oct. 20.

In the interim, joint committees would try to hammer out an agreement on issues such as the release of Palestinian prisoners, the transfer of security control in parts of the West Bank and the fate of militants wanted by Israel. "It was agreed that after (Abbas) returns from Washington, the two leaders would meet in order to evaluate the committees progress," the statement said.

Sharon's office added that chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat and the Israeli leader's top advisor Dov Weisglass had agreed during their talks to try to ensure that Abbas and Sharon meet regularly. *AFP*

Britain seeks ban of 15 terror groups

LONDON—THE British government on Monday published a list of 15 Islamist groups it wants parliament to ban as part of an antiterror crackdown following the deadly July bombings in London.

Among the groups named were those which allegedly targeted US-led coalition troops in Iraq or westerners in Somalia as well as anti-Libyan and anti-Moroccan groups which were also deemed to be fighting a global holy war.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke asked lawmakers returning to parliament from their 80-day summer recess to "proscribe" such groups under existing laws, ahead of publishing the government's new antiterrorism bill on Wednesday.

The new bill contains proposals to extend the period of detention without charge of suspected terrorists from two weeks to 90 days.

"Recent events in London and elsewhere in the world have shown all too clearly that the threat posed by global terrorism has not gone away," Clarke told the elected House of Commons.

The bombings of July 7, which killed 52 commuters in London, and a similar but botched attack two weeks later point up "the need to maintain a vigorous approach to dealing with terrorists and their supporters," he said. *AFP*

Asistio keeps fiery form, stretches Samsung lead

HOUSTON ARISTEO CANNED THREE birdies coming in for a solid two-under-par 69 yesterday and stretched his lead in three-shots over Michael Allen Sudberry through the fourth leg of the Samsung Aramico Team of The Masters League contest at Silang, Cavite.

Asistio, the well-liked jeepsplitter who showed up the field with a 70 in the first round Monday, carved the back of the hazardous course 71 layout for a total of 206-213.

That gave the 30-year-old Asistio a 36-hole total of 136, three shots in front of Bhatt, the former Singapore Amateur champion who beat Asistio last month to win the Baguio stop of this season-hopping series put up by top electronics firm Samsung.

Bhatt turned in a 70 to be at 142.

Jay Bayron carved out a double bogey off a sparrow on No. 14 to salvage a 73 and stood two shots further back at 144.

Veteran campaigner Tommy Manotoc bounced back from a rambunctious 75 with a 71, but remained tee be adrift at 152, in a tie with Anthony Fernando (74).

Former national amateur champion and DPL Open winner Art Borromeo failed to gain ground with a 73-72 in his four-day tournament sponsored by KIA by Genesis Globetrekkers, Inc. Bob, Colonel Oliver, Rudy Pedoni, Mitsubishi and Dubai Sports Plus.

The event, backed by Nikon 105.1, Asia 88.3, 89.9, 99.5-FM, 1015 & Life and Killer Bee as media partners with the Philippine Airlines as official carrier, serves as the penultimate leg of the circuit culminating in the grand finale slated at the newly opened Summit Nine Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Defending Samsung national champion Jim Chang-shot, hard-pressed to climb a big win in advance on the national finals current year, squandered a 10-tee the front nine with a double bogey-7 on No. 14. He shot a 71 and stood 14 strokes behind Asistio at 218.

Meanwhile, Crystal Squirrel dominated Class A of the ladies division, posting rounds of 68-69 in the scheduled Coupled course for a 137 to claim a 9-stroke victory over Lisa de Guzman, who had a 146 after a 72.

Gilda Mendonoza carded an 80, then stepped facing this to the playoff to win the Class B plum. Both players finished in 146 with Ilse having the sudden death with a 76. Elizabeth Salazar shot an 68 and a 171 to capture the Class C crown over Gem Ryle, who turned from 85 for a 174.

Tigers take on Beermen sans Hatfield

POOR JUDGING LEFT NO ROOM FOR SPECULATIONS ON BOSTEVER: DS NOT Rudy Hatfield will finally suit up tonight for Coca-Cola.

"I'm sure he wasn't play" said Asistio. "He's still in the Philfield Blame."

Ian Klipsel flew out heave to right field relief.

The Shoemen and the Tigers ding it out today with Hatfield's issue comeback still pushed back by his being in the III to secure this documents that will make his reinstatement final.

The league is reviewing Hatfield's case after Makasiang reversed a suspension of Asistio ruling that declared the foreign born ruged as non-Filipino.

SPIRIT TEST
(Game Date)
8:00 p.m. — Coca-Cola vs Ginebra
San Miguel Arena
7:15 p.m. — Talk 'N Text vs MBT

PBA commissioner Noli Eala was pained to explain the decision on Hatfield yesterday, but none if he like the suspension, Gregorio said. He noted Hatfield's move will all rest on his ability to present the needed documents required by the league.

"He still has a couple of pending requirements to satisfy," said Orino.

Still, the Tigers will bring a few more adjustments into the court.

For one, Asistio, who was with Air Herb when the latter signed up as a GSC great, is a unknown, was finally taken off the injured list after fully resting a back injury he explains sophomore Carlo Montes.

Ali Montes was also reinstated to the lineup after Coke Singson came down with Chikungunya.

The Beermen, who has three opening games to Talk 'N Text, won't see any roster improvement because Jimbo Peña and Dondon Hontiveros are still doubtful starters due to injuries.

The Power Bits aims to duplicate their victory over San Miguel Beer against the Air21 Express in the other game. Coach Bo Perasol started the Express to a win over Purefoods Chunkee in his coaching debut.

"We'll do a high scoring, run-and-gun team like we," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal. "I hope we could match up with their speed."

Jane Navarro

THE PARK at w-back in-group numbers and league officials are hopeful the best office crowd will last through the season.

282 big reasons why the PBA is upbeat

By Franck Ochoa

IT MAY BE TOO SOON TO TELL, BUT the Philippine Basketball Association is showing signs of life — literally.

Banking on a mix of marketing strategy and the hype of home games, the PBA has picked up its tailbone to be an active audience in a season-end and has started by quadrupled in fans would.

drew compared to last year.

Gate receipts saw a 282 percent increase in five weekends of from last year's first month numbers. That means that for every one person who watched the games at the venues in the first month of the season last year, 3.8 watched this year.

After drawing more than 15,000 fans on opening day, the league capped the first week of its 31st season with a Sunday game that drew 22,477 fans. Even the weekday playdates at the Smart Araneta Coliseum drew a full house of 6,500 fans.

PBA gross sales of tickets have also increased by nearly 74 percent compared to last year's Fiesta Conference.

"I would like to thank the throngs of PBA fans who have enthusiastic

Game 5 promo and the other activities of the PBA," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala, referring to a promotional tool that allows fans to watch the games for free. "It is truly gratifying to see their continued patronage."

Eala also noted that the games have also become doubly exciting for the players are admittedly more pumped up when playing before a large crowd.

Archers offer to forfeit 2004 UAAP crown

From page A1

La Salle's notation in the last three years.

The statement noted that the Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) submitted by the player "was not genuine, thus rendering him academically ineligible."

The PEPTCR is an exam conduct itself to "is issued, as in the absence of a high school diploma."

"We were surprised that this happened," said Tolentino, a member of the La Salle board of trustees and board of trustees. "But the immediate rejection of La Salle's highest officials says that we should be transparent and some not in the open."

Coach Franz Pumaren, also steered the Archers' title run from 1999 to 2001 under 2004, decided to keep mum on the issue.

"It is the call of the school," he said. "I don't want to comment on it yet. I only learned about it a couple of days ago."

But Pumaren noted that "we can't assume that it's one of the junior [third-year] players."

The player's case was announced after a local association of legislators nationwide expressed "serious concerns" that some of the "fabricated documents submitted by students for admission may be spurious."

La Salle said it acted on its "own initiative" by requesting the Department of Education to verify the PEPTCR of the disqualified player.

"[La Salle] will uphold the spirit of fair play and true sportsmanship and will never condone cheating in any form," added the statement.

The case adds to a series of controversies versus the La Salle this season.

Two weeks ago, the league banned assistant team manager Manny Salgado for life after accusing basketball referee, star of the newly crowned Tim Sanders of "Tanauan on Game 1 of the Finals.

The Archers also filed two game protests against the University of the East Warriors, with the second one ordered replayed at the end of the elimination round.

Petron nat'l age group taekwondo up Saturday

ABOUT 1,000 JINS ARE EXPECTED to vie for honors in the 2005 Petron national age group taekwondo championships on Oct. 15-16 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert B. Aranzanso said the event will highlight the program of taekwondo here and give participants the chance to show off their techniques in front of a big crowd.

Competition will be conducted in four divisions, namely mid-junior (male and female, for aged 13 and 14 years old) and grade school (boys and girls aged 12 and below).

Organizing committee chair Sung Chan Hong, the host namely responsible for the tremendous growth and development of the sport in the country, said participants will come from various schools and government affiliated with the taekwondo association.

Marian Ala enthusiasm and sports advocates, especially dad, drew who are interested in the sport, are invited to watch starting 9 a.m.

The event is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Petron, Samsung and Mila.

There is a greater interest in the taekwondo competition now since the Philippines will host the 22nd Southeast Asian Games from Nov. 27 to Dec. 3.

Rifa, Red Ribbon ink football pact

THE REAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (RIFA) and Red Ribbon Bakeshop Inter-Corporal on all-fronts to further propagate the sport.

RIFA, which boasts the most number of grade school and high school footballers in the country today, recently granted Red Ribbon exclusive sponsorship rights to Inter-Nila Football Festivals, including its Under-21 league for boys.

The agreement was signed by Red Ribbon's VP for marketing Jorge Concepcion and Rifa president Mario Gregorio of Colegio San Agustin in Bacolod City, Philippines, Makati City.

This Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Red Ribbon-RIFA Mila football festival will be staged at the Colegio San Agustin field. Inah Selection will be the tournament committee's.

US pro league opens door to Pinoys

FILIPINOS MAY SOON BE ABLE TO PLAY IN American professional basketball leagues.

The first four Filipinos recently contracted the Central Regional Basketball League (CRBL) to help conduct a tryout for Filipino wanting to join the expansion team or its debut in the 2005-2006 season — if the American basketball season the November.

The tryout will be staged on Saturday and only invitation only interested players may call the CRBL Secretariat at +63(2)8309 8726 or by emailing an email to crbl@yahoo.com.

The Shipsiders team president Antonio Buenaventura has given the go-signal for Mayor Alabi head coach Mon Jodi and his coaching staff to fly to Manila and supervise the activity.

A Bobby with a heart bigger than his punches

OLYMPIA, HERE — Hard of the Game, the temperature that drives to hateful, sweep boss over 20 other Dames now on display at the Heritage Gallery of the Old Mogadishi in Kinetiskwong, is a misnomer. He actually the Stott of the Game for the featured artist, Benny Filipino, who finally steps into the big league with his latest show Series, after making style in the Bingos, is not the red rule would sell or administer his works, although he has always performed uncommon duty heading with the great audiences, mainly the dazzling flows of solid 10s. Nothing they've observed, in Filipino's own subverse bullfighters is no fifth-creation of a Divine passion. (Sad!)

* * *

YOU really would subscribe the secret why Bobby Pacquiao wears that close, rugged fight against Oscar De La Hoya "Fortune" Hernandez in Las Vegas on Sunday?

It's not actually a secret. It's also not very simple.

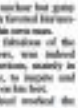
In fact, many times after 66 Bobby Pacquiao had been the beneficiary of dubious scoring may discover with the fair observer.

Here: The younger brother of Manny Pacquiao was declared the winner by split decision because he happens to own a heart that's a lot bigger than his punches.

* * *

Champ. Sorry about that. The big, heroic heart is genuine. But this should mark the last time we should be privileged to addressing Bobby as the younger brother Manny Pacquiao.

BARE EYE



Ricardo Trinidad

Bobby, by virtue of that nuclear but gutsy win over the grizzled, highly favored Hernandez, has definitely become his own man.

Oh. Missing the more fabulous of the fighting Pacquiao brothers, was indeed there to holler out instructions, mainly in the fiery finishing rounds, to inspire and keep poise, bothered Bobby on his best.

Manny may have indeed worked the magic from the corner but...

But it was Bobby who had to absorb and digest all the rambunctious blows to the body that only the hearest and toughest in the boxing business could've survived.

* * *

Doesn't he (Bobby) have a taste of his own? wondered a lovely girl around the Magsaysay Arena's second-row swing.

The maiden was, with a fellow who introduced himself as Richard Guevarra, as because his and a guest in Benny Filipino's art show opening at the Heritage Gallery.

Despite the sweet intention, the question stung like a sting ray.

It was just too bad that, the morning after the home had done points victory in doubling (as bingo, mon, I'm of, opera session hammer heads linked to honor Bobby by referring to him in his baptismal name. He was called Manny's younger brod.

* * *

Naturally we had to offer our apologies, thereby assuring her that Bobby Pacquiao will have other fights for the — sites at last.

Meanwhile, this should be one rare time when we could since that hilarious side of boxing that had victimized enough Filipino fighters (and fans, alike).

A lot of Pinoy fans had also been spilled over this thing unanimously called home-town decision.

Friends and fans of Ramon may've indeed felt robbed. (Bled.

But, in Bobby's case, it cannot be said that he did not fight good and strong enough to gain the nod of the two judges.

* * *

Several critics and one of the three judges would be right.

Hernandez must've landed more punches.

But how did he look after the final bell?

Shortly like the big loser, as he sported bumps as big as apples over his eyebrows.

Bobby Pacquiao, had him, did not only hand the bigger blows.

He definitely was more. He did not look a bit the loser when the final bell rang.

He also happens to own a heart bigger than all of Cordless.

SPORTSWATCH

ICE PRINCESS

Ice skater Angelica P. Hendricks shows the four gold and three bronze medals she bagged in seven events in the 2005 Fil-Nisei Recreational Team Championships held in Los Angeles, California, recently. Hendricks first powered the Philippine team to second place overall in the 13 Recreational Trained by SM Mall of Asia ice skater Lawrence Alcazaren, the 12-year-old student at Saint Rose Montessori School is supported by Popcorn chair Rivalyn C. Gonzalez and officials of the Ice Rink City game owners.

70-plus fights in Gentlemen Collosseum today

MORE THAN FOUR FIGHTS ARE ON TAP WHEN THE FIFTH LEGS OF THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby kicks off starting at 3 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum. Derby matinee is Dagupan Cockpit (DC) Fighting three pound gamefowls are Patrick Antonio, owner of multi-GCAP derby champ Rock Star; Larry "Boy" Tupaz, Del Gonzales, Regie Lee, the Angeles brothers, Mayor Rene Aguila, Sonny Lagos, Gerry Ferrer, Joe de Rico, Dicky Lim, Atty. Bobbi Pichay, among others. The GCAP's highlight of the four weekend will be known as Nov. 5, when the one big action (Alfie G. Pinoy-Dy Cockpit).

Makati Coliseum 5-stag derby today

EXCITING COCKPIT EDUCATION BUSINESS TODAY AT THE MAKATI COLISEUM, with the staging of another tough 5-stag derby featuring more than 50 fights. Competing today are prominent cockers and breeders from Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Angeles, Guimbal and Iloilo, as well as members of cockers' groups like Pride of Makati, Lucky Breed, Gentlemen Cockers, Inc. and Team Sabong, while reigning World Slasher Cup champion Atty. Marcial Lazatin The PCAP's 5-stag derby Monday night with his entry Wild Bulacan (four cocks was drawn). The second top draw was Cocker Pichay Sportsmen Bill of Rey Briones and Rep. Butch Pichay and Engineer of Pepito Reyes, Jr. Fernando and the Angeles Brothers.

Asian parliamentarians want UN action on Burma

Congratulations!

Magsaysay Maritime Corporation

2005 Best Manning Company
(Asia Pacific)
Lloyd's List Maritime Asia Awards

Magsaysay Institute of Shipping

2005 Finalist
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UNITED NATIONS — A GROUP OF SOUTHEAST Asian parliamentarians advocated on Monday that the United Nations organize major countries to pressure Burma's [illegible] military junta into accepting some democratic reforms.

[illegible] legislators, from Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore said a seven-conference that forum, the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, was incapable of bringing about change in Burma without outside help.

Ireland, the three, representing some 100 parliamentarians, said the United States, the European Union, Japan, China, India, Russia and Asean should devise standards of democratic change Burma should make and then pressure the military to accept them.

The effort, they said, would best be led by the Secretary General Kofi Annan. The group met Ibrahim Gambari, the UN undersecretary general for political affairs.

"If we all agree on the basic parameters, then perhaps we may see some progress," said Malaysian parliamentarian Zaid Ibrahim, chair of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus.

Reuters

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Pennisi cleared?

LAST MONDAY WHILE ON board the radio program "Usapang Sports" over DZME, sweet ballbois from field reporter Gina Mape-cute through.

I was surprised because I suspected spurs—basketball to be precise.

Gina reported that 10-American ringer Michael Pennisi of Red Bull Toa has declared ineligible to play in the Finals.

What I don't understand is why there has been no formal announcement about his ax.

Meanwhile, commissioner Noli Eala has initiated a proposal granting amnesty to all suspended PBLBoys and this, dammit has been sent to all the governors for study. They are expected to make a decision when the board convenes this Thursday.

The only suspended PBLBoy players left are Gimbel's Fire Monk, Red Bull's Jayvee Hoop and Jam Sardonic and Coca-Cola's Bull Issues.

***

I received so many interesting e-mail, text messages and phone calls this week from sports fans and friends which I want to share with you. Here—under are the feedback from our readers:

"Bold statement at Jai Reyes of Arenas: any expelling Rookie of the Star-ing UAAP USAID unit in 12oot? Unit is Chef's neighbor, but his son—RC? Also marooning deserving unit? I can name some of them: Jiro Lanuevo of Arenas, Carlos Arellano, Julio Barredo of UPE, Mike Tolibas, Anton Villanueva of PEC, Ibrahim Cacho-ito, Mark Barbosano, Elmer Espiritu of UE, and Axel Ostiendo of UP among many others. Also, di ko sure wear donot se barbaring luntians ng student-cum a- lot? Also RC, according to scribe Mido Aquino—RC!"

—Teddy Boysano

(Ed's note: Incoming new-elected's rules for Season 68 Association from other colleges who are made to undergo residency are disqualified from the Rookie of the Year race. Of those in the list above, only Espiritu, the established leader among rookies, Abubacar and Reyes were eligible for the award).

***

"Calling the attention of the PBA television sportscasters. Kasi, para dalahin ng ibang ahensya ang mga laro dito during the coverage, pero actually, magkakaroon rather long silo-mat of the time."

—Gem Mirafor

"Ang gusto naming malaman, ang isyung fellow Arenans na ito, gaanod ng anim-siklong Mister ahensya? Bawat PBA team ay-nanay Ilarde yet, who's the lady he ina-nang-with."—Noli Castillo)

"My pleasid not condemn the Arenas absence for his human frailty. He cannot blame that if he fell in love. Kinis' ego ako, mahahalata ng panic. Actually I like this guy better than his older brother. He studied and married galing. Ang sa, show his jet-sonality lang!"—Doc T. Carmacon

***

"Paging (Cojuangco) says 7 out of 9 PBA teams have expressed their willingness to join the new ego body. What do you know about that?"—Iggy U. Unsinjochabi- more reports. Ate Cojuangco invited the PBA team owners to a dinner last Saturday. Only two showed up. The others sent their representatives. One owner was not invited—and He sure you know who it is—which we huddled was not represented at all.—RC)

"TnC-Co Song Cui could voyage from his POC just as ignited assistants to the president? Some scribes tried to squeeze the truth out of him during the press conference but Monday or the PSG caliber dominico of Bonbuay to the BSA Cinemas but got nowhere.

(TnC- Ips were tightly sealed on the matter. Incredible denial was confirmed the report. One thing I must tell you, though, Mondaine chemistry he did tell with the POC officials. GTB didn't attend the presence, but since he was just in the vicinity, pinmasang apa nila Peping (Cojuangco), Pattycio (other) equal."—Enrique C.

Angels oust Yankees

Set duel with White Sox for AL crown

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—THE Los Angeles Angels rallied to clinch the American League Division Series with a 5-3 Game Five victory over the New York Yankees on Monday, winning a wild contest that saw both starting pitchers game by the third inning.

The Angels battled back from a 2-1 deficit to score the go-ahead runs when two Yankees outfielders collaborating to crash a deep fly ball and then hold on to take the host of the series by a 2-3 margin.

Despite losing Bartolo Colon after the first inning to an inflamed shoulder, the Angels set up a meeting with the Chicago White Sox in the American League Championship Series.

Game One of the best-of-seven series is in Chicago on Tuesday.

The Yankees began the season with baseball's biggest payroll and high expectations, but the early exit means they will not add to their record 26 World Series wins, with the title though now lying back to 2000.

"We just terribly disappointed," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

"I don't remember being this disappointed because I wanted this very badly."

Los Angeles' 23-year-old rookie Erick Aybar, starting in to replace Colon and making his first major play of appearance, sparkled in relief after giving up two early runs to New York.

Aybar, in only four early season- mercy were flashes of brilliance that lit everybody's eyes up," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Los Angeles took the lead for good in the second inning after Yankees outfielders Bubba Crosby and Gary Sheffield smashed into each other near the right field wall.

Angels left fielder Garret Anderson ran off the wall after a solo home run. Catcher Bengie Molina followed with a single and two outs later Steve Finley walked.

Both runners and two outs, Adam Kennedy hit a deep fly to the warning track where Crosby and Sheffield sprinted toward the ball but collided, allowing the ball to drop and two runs to score. Kennedy

ANGELS Francisco Rodriguez and Bengie Molina celebrate their victory over the Yankees. AP

TYSON lly shows off his trophy in President during a courtesy call. BONGBONG

Sy sets sights on AF3 title

YOUNG GUN TYSON DE MACENE FOR HIS much-awaited showdown with Indonesian Amanda Rifaldy for the Asian Formula Three overall crown, yesterday expressed confidence he could deliver when the last two rounds of the series are held on Nov. 5-6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

"It's very possible to win the championship," he said. "My confidence was boosted by my two victories the last time in Indonesia."

The Speedtech Asia driver, who turned 16 only last Saturday will go into the last two rounds with 181 points, 20 points behind Rifaldy. The Indon scores leader always starting over next month to try and accomplish what he failed to do in the last two rounds last month in his home track.

Officials of Batangas Racing with Chairperson, needs just one more win...needs 20 points—in the last two races to clinch the crown. Since a couple of runner-up finishes...needs 30 points...will do the trick.

Tagaytay hosts Poker tilt

POKER CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES president Ray "Bobby" Gordon announced that the fifth leg of the ongoing Poker King Challenge is set Nov. 5, at Casino Filipino, Tagaytay City.

Prize certification with cash cover-all up to P800,000 awaits the leg champion.

This leg three leg winners of the Tagaytay competition will join the other previous winners in the grand Manila Intra-Fete event.

Also at stake are trophies and gift items from sponsors: Poker Club, Bigstar, Jack Daniels, Miller Beer, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Bulgari Wine, and My Restaurant Online.

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InqBox

Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champions: Brian Viloria, Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao!

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China to launch 2nd manned space flight

BEIJING—CHINA IS CONFIRming dates for a manned space launch expected on Wednesday, joining an exclusive club of just three countries to put a man into space twice.

The Shenzhou VI would blast off in northwest China "in a proper time" between Oct. 12 and 16, China's official Xinhua news agency said, citing an official with China's space program.

But a source told Reuters that the Shenzhou VI would blast off on Wednesday, a day after the Communist Party finishes a major meeting to map out economic and social development.

State television will cover the launch live two years after China's maiden manned space mission, when Col. Yang Liwei orbited Earth 14 times on the Shenzhou V mid-October 2003.

Showing how far China has to go to catch up, space powers Russia and the United States, a Russian capsule carrying two cosmonauts, a US astronaut and an American space tourist docked at Earth on Tuesday from the International Space Station.

Russia, then as the Soviet Union, and the United States are the first two nations in space in 1961.

China's spacecraft, with two astronauts aboard, would blast off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu province and touch down in the remote northern region of Inner Mongolia, Xinhua said.

The last two Chinese to go into orbit were launched through a rigorous screening process that started with 14 former fighter pilots, had been identified, it said, but their identities have been kept a strict secret.

"China will never be a superpower, but as the world's biggest developing country with 1.3 billion people, it should have a place in aerospace development and make due contributions," Wang Yongzhi, chief designer of China's manned spaceflight program, was quoted as saying. Reuters

Merkel is Germany's 1st woman chancellor

BERLIN—CONRADO HIMARIO on a historic course on Monday as conservative leader Angela Merkel won the battle to become the country's first woman chancellor and Gerhard Schroeder turned out after seven years in power.

Schroeder said he agreed to step down after securing a handshake deal for his Social Democrats (SPD), who will control the majority of the ministries in a coalition government with Merkel's Christian Democrat alliance.

But Schroeder will play no role in the new left-right government, SPD sources said.

The end of Chirac marks of political deadlock in Europe's biggest economy was welcomed by the European Union and Germany's neighbors.

The German press hailed the remarkable rise to power of the 51-year-old Merkel who grew up in the communist former East Germany, but warned that the government she will provide over could be fraught with divisions.

"It is a turning point, a truly historic moment because of Merkel's background," the Berliner-based Der Tagesspiegel daily said in an advance report from its Sunday editions.

Merkel vowed that her new government would tackle urgent reforms to revive the stuttering economy which is saddled by unemployment as currently more than 11 percent.

She said the agreement would pave the way for formal coalition negotiations starting next week, and her Christian Union alliance would take six ministries, with the SPD getting eight Cabinet posts.

"We have achieved something big, we have the basis for coalition talks," she told a press conference.

"We agree that we have an ambitious to the reform process. We have an eye also to create a realistic one that counts for everybody."

Creating jobs would be a priority for the new administration, she added.

Pressed for questions from the side, Merkel broke into a smile. "I feel good, but a lot of work lies ahead of us."

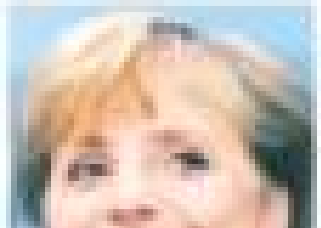
News of Germany's first "grand coalition" since the 1960s saw the eurozone register the dollar.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent his congratulations.

"The prime minister congratulates Dr Angela Merkel on her election victory and hopes to be speaking to her here this afternoon," his official spokesperson said.

French President Jacques Chirac invited Merkel to Paris "as soon as possible" and a spokesperson for European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso said he "was happy that the period of waiting is over."

Washington said it looked forward to working with her. "We welcome Angela Merkel being designated chancellor," from its incumbent spokesperson. "She



MERKEL

Corey told AFP.

Merkel said she hoped to improve relations with the United States which plunged to freezing point when Schroeder refused to provide any military support for the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

The coalition deal was hammered out after intense negotiations following a Sept. 18 general election which gave Merkel's party only a few seat advantage over the SPD.

Running to remain close to the SPD, the liberal Democrats will take the key ministries of foreign affairs, finance, labor and justice, as well as health, aid and cooperation, transport and environment.

Merkel's conservatives would have economy, interior, defense, agriculture, education and family ministries.

Edmund Stoiber, the state premier of Germany's most wealthy region Bavaria, confirmed he would take over the economy portfolio.

Peter Struck, currently the defense minister, may switch to become foreign minister, according to some reports.

But it remains unclear how the division of responsibilities will affect her ability to govern. AFP

AUMANN

SCHELLING

Israeli, American win economics Nobel for 'game theory' work

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STOCKHOLM—AUMANN AND SCHELLING

Israeli-American Robert Aumann and American Thomas Schelling won the 2005 Nobel prize for economics on Monday for their work on "game theory," which can help explain and resolve trade and business conflicts, and even play a role in avoiding war.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences gave the 10 million crown ($1.3 million) prize to Thomas Schelling and Robert Aumann for "with their backward vision to "security and disarmament policies, price formation on markets, as well as economic and political organizations."

Aumann, 75, was born in Germany but is an Israeli and US citizen who teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Schelling, 84, teaches at the University of Maryland.

"Game theory" is the science of strategy and attempts to determine what actions different "players"—such as leading partners, negotiators, unions or even organized crime groups—should take to secure the best outcome for themselves.

Game theory until has won the Nobel before. John Nash, the mathematician whose life was portrayed in the movie "A Beautiful Mind," won the economics prize with another in 1994.

"I think game theory mostly does that an important in solving and approaching conflict in general," Aumann told the awards ceremony by telephone from Israel.

Asked whether it could help solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said: "I do hope that perhaps some game theory can be used and be part of this solution." Schelling told Reuters by telephone from his home in Maryland.

"I'm a student of cooperation and conflict, but am really a game theorist... I wouldn't say my hand we make the case that what I do is economics," he said.

Schelling, whose career began with work on the US Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe after World War Two, has applied game theory to global security and the Cold War arms race. He has tried to explain how a minor second nuclear weapons after the bombings of Hiroshima in 1945 itself became a factor in deterring their use after World War Two, even as both sides of the Cold War amassed big nuclear arsenals.

Aumann won Israel's first analysis of "infinitely repeated games" to identify what outcomes can be maximized over time.

"Insights into these issues help explain economic conflicts such as price wars and trade wars, as well as why some communities are more successful than others in managing common pool resources," said the Academy statement. Reuters

Grotesque museum attracts thousands

WHO, ODD FRIENDS AGREE, IS HOW the would want to be remembered. See some Cavaliers Pittsburghers on the Mutter Museum, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia's collection of medical specimens and instruments.

It's a cruel exam, in a former storage area Mendoza jokingly referred to as "the torture room." But it has been handsomely fitted out with display cases of polished wood and glass, filled with the kinds of spectacularly grotesque anatomical oddities Mütter spent his adult life explaining to the museum's curious and curious patrons.

There are jars of preserved human hearts and livers, and a man's skull on which some by surgery makes that it looks like pointed tusk. There are dried severed hands shiny as lacquered wood, showing their veins like leaves, a distended ivory larger. There a breast half, spines and leg bones so twisted by rickets they're painful just to see, the skeleton of a dwarf who stood 3 ft 6 in. small, next to that of a giant who measured 7 and-a-half ft. And Siri and Ani, the grisly Siamese corpse of a two-headed baby dumped in a bath of formaldehyde.

A roomful of diseased organs and genital mutations would seem a strange memorial only to those who didn't know Mütter.

"I think she would have loved it," Marjorie Lipman, the Mütter's curator, said a little more than a year after Mütter's death, at 56, of long-term complications from Hodgkin's disease.

Tucked inside an austere brick building on South 22nd Street in downtown Philadelphia, the Mütter Museum was established in 1849. It was a time when every medical school had its collection of anatomical specimens to use as instructional tools, and many of the Mütter's 20,000 items are antiques. Some are macabre ones like human mummified, microcephalic heads (no joke), the likes of the celebrated Siamese Twins, "Chang and Eng, New York Times News Service

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Good cop, bad cop

EDITORIAL

WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE GOOD COP-bad-cop routine. The present administration has perfected it to the level of performance art. There are the designated good cops, such as Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita with his soothing voice and unflustered style; and the bad cops, such as the impatient and undiplomatic Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Anyway, we must bear in mind that, whether in TV shows or in real life, good cops or bad cops all work for the same team.

What we are seeing at present is a good cop-bad cop routine with a new twist: the launching of trial balloons, and a third cop with a stopwatch. The process works this way: a designated bad cop says something provocative and launches a trial balloon. The third cop with the stopwatch. (He's unnamed.) starts the timer and waits to see how long it will take for the opposition, key sectors of society, the media and the public, to react, either positively or negatively—that is, if they choose not to remain indifferent. If the reactions from the public become too hostile for comfort, the good cop takes the center stage and promptly shoots the trial balloon down. And then the bad cop comes out again to start the cycle.

It's precisely example showing how this routine goes about: in this talk going around that the President's people are preparing to declare some sort of a state of national emergency, which would allow the President to harness either the latent powers of her office, or invoke extraordinary powers, the use of which the approval of Congress is not constitutionally required. The bad cops of the administration, led by Secretary Gonzalez, have been specifically floating around the idea of invoking the presidential prerogative in times of economic emergencies to take over vital strategic industries.

Another idea that has been broached is to prepare the country for the President's calling out the armed forces or impose stringent measures in case of a coup attempt or a terrorist attack. What has been consistently denied by the good cops is that the proposed—and often vaguely described—measures smell like martial law.

As we've said, what's important is to bear in mind that these people—whether good cops or bad cops—all work for the same team.

We should also bear in mind that good cops or bad cops, all of them are members of the Cabinet. The timekeepers are, of course, the President's propagandists.

At this point, it is a stretch to accuse the President of dictatorial ambitions. What is apparent is a relentless effort to sow division, mistrust, and alarm within the ranks of her opponents. At the same time, public opinion on every possible contingency—short of a formal proclamation of martial law—is being tested. So far, the public seems jaded to respond to the administration's gambits, or the alarms being raised by its opponents.

We can be sure that all these factors are being noted down, weighed, measured, and taken into consideration by the President's tiemkeepers, perhaps, even by Ms Arroyo herself.

The continuous and merciless attacks on former President Joseph Estrada and the attempts to tarnish, through rumors and innuendoes, the reputations of those close to her (the very things the President vehemently proclaimed as being the hallmarks of a defective political culture, of which she is a victim); and the filing of cases against anyone possibly in a position to be a political threat, show that the administration is proving to be skilled in eliminating anyone in a position to speak up against the President.

The President's people may, indeed, be looking at a martial law scenario. But what they are doing right now is far more sinister, for in the process, they are successfully eroding public confidence in every institution tasked to serve as part of the check-and-balance mechanisms of our democracy. In fact, no institution has been left untouched, whether the bureaucracy, the military, the judiciary, or the legislature. In fact, it is only the Senate that is left resisting the President.

Meanwhile, our businessmen, bishops, the public and the political parties are seriously divided.

So who needs martial law when the administration, even if unable to redeem itself, appears to be succeeding in sapping the energy of every challenger in the future? But even then, should it still become necessary, all it would take to get Secretary Gonzalez's trial balloon really flying is the signature of the President.

Don't scrap NorthRail project; renegotiate it

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE IS A CONTRARY VIEW TO THE PREVAILing sentiment for the scrapping of the Northrail project. The arc two (Malolos-Clark) by the opposition: 11 it's overpriced, and 2) there was no public bidding mentioned before the project was awarded to a Chinese corporation. All this may be true (although Northrail gives convincing arguments on the contrary). But that does not change the fact that we need railroads urgently to improve our transportation system, both agricultural and industrial, in the urban areas and develop the countryside.

The biggest mistake of the Philippine government was neglecting the Philippine National Railroad (PNR), allowing it to deteriorate, stopping service on many lines, and abandoning the railroad right-of-way. All over the world, the railroad is the cheapest mode of transportation because of its capacity to carry huge volumes of passengers and cargoes. Many countries, notably Japan, China and India, are developing faster and better trains but the Philippines is going backwards on this mode of transportation. America widened its lines increasing their capacity for the intermodal system of highways instead of railroads to address the problem of the increasing volume of shipments. We are still doing that—increasing as much as highways, except that the American government now limits how much federal money for the interstate highways might be used for railroads by Japanese companies.

Up to the time of President Ferdinand Marcos, Japan, the Chief Executive loving trains, was most kind in comfort up to Dagupan in a limousine train, shared first class, air-conditioned coaches with dining cars. She could sleep through the night aboard a Manila Railroad train or wake as they entered from Tarlac to Manila or Ilocos, and wake up in the morning to Legaspi, to Tanauan, the PNR had first class air-conditioned coaches with passengers getting off the same day from Manila.

President Macapagal and his family (his brother Ace Cruz, among them), and the reporters covering them, regularly took the train when going to Baguio, Pura Point, and other places in the north. He would bring busloads of newsmen with him and work all them in his job one coach while the rest slept/dragged to Tarlac.

What's more, merchandise and other cargoes moving from north to south Luzon and vice versa could be transported less—and at lower transportation cost—by train and provincial bus continued between villages and down south via the trains.

There was an ILOCS (North Luzon Express) service then. There was only one highway to the north, the Manila-Nue Highway. Although while the American Liberators forces fought each step from Lingayen Gulf to Manila, but it was not congested with traffic as it is now. It was traveled through beautiful, fertile countryside, lanes, rice terraces, bamboo groves, and virgin land. Only coconut-lined carts competed with the few trucks, buses, and cars that used the Manila-Nue Highway. Most of the people used the railroad.

We allowed squatters to invade the railroad tracks and steal the steel rails and sleepers for fuel or if they owned the railroad right-of-way. It is only now that we are making up on the lost time we used the railroad—and they are also illegally spreading billions of money—as money to relocate the squatters.

The lines are very close squatters in the right-of-way of government infrastructure projects, such as railroads and streets, are not entitled to relocation and financial assistance. But because they are afraid of angering the voters are easy prone to violence, they are also vote-wise, government officials prefer to disobey the laws rather than enforce them.

Seems we are spending billions of pesos that we can't afford—just to make those landowners happy. But they're all happy. Those farmers taking with, surprisingly, the CJP (are Corano who should know better) have asked the Supreme Court to nullify the Northrail project. There reasons: the project is "overpriced" and a non-essential with "no public bidding."

Northrail says that the reason the project appears expensive on a per kilometer basis is that this is a double-track railroad, unlike the old one which was single-track. The per kilometer cost can be cut in half simply by reverting to the single-track system. The same amount of money, therefore, we can double the length of the railroad, perhaps, as far as halfway to Emmanuel to Manila.

As for the reasons, the Chinese government is financing it to the tune of 85 percent interest two percentages 20 years. But due to why there was no public bidding—it was a government to government negotiation.

But even granting that the project was defective, the solution is not to cancel but to renegotiate. Let the Chinese return a part of the profits from such offers being sent, well and good. If nobody does, give it back to the Chinese.

Opposition say the Chinese are selling us their old locomotives and coaches. True. This is why there can also sell them new ones. Japan sold us all the rails and rolling stock of the new high-speed trains running (or I were will when we can afford, isn't goddam to the train-operators ones when our financial situation improves.

We have to start thinking long-term basis in fact, we should extend the Northrail up to Laoag and Aparri, and the Southrail up to Sorsogon. We should also have a railroad in Mindanao.

Madness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT WAS THE DIVIDEND, OF A TYPHOON, AND more of the worst had just closed. People were on their way home from work, or from shopping. Then, suddenly, actual guns right, the action of a big department store let out a roar and was seen in flying in all directions. A woman on who was standing in front of it was hurled backwards and thrown into the pavement. Her face was torn off, leaving her completely unrecognizable. She died there and then. Some 11 other people were wounded and brought to the hospital, some of them critical—though they eventually managed to pull through. The bomb blast—which it was...left a gaping hole where a wall used to be used to be. And it left a city in shock.

I swear that in a book called "Dead Man," which sort of how Marcos invented a dictatorship in this country. That event happened 33 years ago, on Sept. 3, 1972, a couple of weeks before Marcos declared martial law. The more or less same thing happened last Sept. 24, with known place in Cotabato, then the shopping center of Greater Manila. It was the Ilocos bombing in a series of bombings that had begun to rock the metropolis then.

Of course, Marcos's war on Muslims who was sustaining the mayhem. But he kept up the pretense of innocence, of course. Without investigation, Juan Ponce Enrile, the defense secretary, immediately claimed it was part of the MNLF-September-October plans, which were supposed to be late August plans, calling for a nationwide uprising.

I remembered that because of the stories going around about GMA's plot to declare martial law, or to foster other grave ruse with attempts that would justify it, to declare the same. Marcos had them. The stories say she will use a private army from Mindanao to sow terror in Metro Manila, specifically by a series of bombings, blaming it on sundry terrorist groups, local and foreign. The predictions on the matter are rife. It will carry it out very soon or she will do it at the end of the month. That is so because Congress will be in recess, and there is a long holiday ahead. Marcos declared martial law on the midnight of Friday, and Congress was scheduled to prorogue on Monday, before anyone protested.

Do I believe GMA will resort to a version of martial law? Well, since the country views every new occurrence the millennium's endless, yes, I think it is possible. The more alarming a new round of bombings in the city—and if you're a parent, you know that it is a scary thought—and it becomes more possible, a foregone probable.

The least of my reasons for believing so is that Raul Gonzalez has a draft of an order declaring martial law in his desk. Gonzalez, the palace clowns, put there to amuse his mouth off and get the lowdown, after all this is over, he could make a killing playing villain in movies. Gideon Ramel Reyes, Cory, and the other supporters would have to hire cutthroat rumors, not to speak of his wife, get him fired.

At the very least, my reasons for believing so is that GMA is surrounded by people who are intimately familiar with martial law, having helped insure it or fought it fervently. She must of done to Ronnie himself who, as a shrade, or to the special officers Marcos was educating in justly martial law, inserted a mock assassination attempt on himself. He ran was riddled with bullets in black-black, which was uniform. Ronnie only in that he wasn't in Mirage, Gonzalez's more suave partner, has already secured alone an assassination attempt on her new shit. Gosh. One of their very guys riddled with bullets over the next couple of weeks with unfortunately none of them being in it, and unfortunately none of them dying in it, and unfortunately none of them being the important things in search out, by bombings and opposition assassination attempts on GMA or her people.

Quite apart from that, there are the economic who are currently advising GMA now in the finer points of sustaining a dictatorship. Proscription rites, fascism-zone.

The interior ministers I subscribe it. GMA is under more pressure today than Marcos was in 1972 to wrap all democratic process. Marcos did so on of attrition. GMA may yet do on out of desperation. Marcos declared martial law because he wanted to stay on in power after 1973. He was the elected president and he had one year to go. There was no threat to his rule, only to his children as who after his ex-bonded. He assumes would say leave us that declaring martial law a ruse before his term to extend was a constitutional ban. He also expected the time every-one thought he would do it the following year. If he did it or all.

GMA's problem is more pressing. She is not the elected president of this country, is has five new years before re-election. The only way she has to stay in power is to declare martial law, with government having become non-existent as she country—as to keep all the support of public officials, elected or appointed. With more than pat to the most rugged to the day Marcos declared martial law. Gosh. Even more the local officials. It's a losing which comes first—GMA running out of cash or the nation running out of patience.

From the other end, it's not just Cory and Susan, Senate and civil society, opposition and opposition that have gotten restive, it's the military, too. Particularly after the Coolant and Batasan episode, which has made the young officers' claim more than a matter of honor, it has made it a matter of survival. The element of a coup d'etat is a big one made openly.

How's GMA to react to declare martial law, or a facsimile thereof, without the military organization she pained her hands the way Marcos did? Well, there is madness that goes beyond this table. Superstars and Michelin memories. Look at the way GMA is going about doing to purge against all odds, against all adversary against all comprehension. Mad?

Who says she isn't so already?

Enlightenment on trial

COMMENTARY

Helga Nowotny

Fear Factor

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Teens, sex and James Bond

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Hams

LOOKING BACK

Anthony R. Quintyn

God's chosen but afraid of her own shadow

LETTERS

I COULD HAVE OPTED TO SIT BACK AND SEE her and let go of this angst. I mean, why do I have to waste my time on this woman who doesn't want to let go? What difference could an ordinary Filipino like me do to convince our countrymen that there's no glory under Gloria? Besides, does my opinion really matter to a society that has grown tolerant to her indiscretions? It is threatening to know that there are those who simply don't give a damn to what's happening. I don't blame the people though for their indifference. Entering the opposition to Malacañang might only result in the creation of another monster. The perception is that both the haves and the alleged have nots are just mirror images of each other—the latter merely duplicating what the former has been doing. This unfortunately is what keeps GMA's sliding ship afloat.

But, I'm worried about this government's detrimental tendencies, the latest of which is its so-called calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy in dealing with protest actions. One cherished constitutional right to assemble has been reduced to a mere "no permit no rally" principle. Thus, no opposition rally will ever be legal because pro-GMA masses will never grant them the permit to do so. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez asserts that this policy is in accordance with the rule of law. He should tutor/petition even worst as he is threatening Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay with suspension if he continued to issue permits to demonstrators. Why is Mr. Arroyo so afraid, so determined to silence legitimate dissent? Why is she afraid of her own shadow?

Gloria's allies must have forgotten that it was the collective action of the people and their desire for better governance that catapulted their boss to Malacañang. That it was the massive street protests that convinced the SC then to withdraw its support from Estrada. Ironically, such collective action she now views as a violation of the rule of law. She even brands her critics as nothing but patriotists and subversionists.

Interestingly, Mr Arroyo credits her survival to Divine intervention. She has often said that it was "God" who shielded her from all the accusations of the "evil" opposition. However, Mr Arroyo likens herself to the present-day Jesus to be stoned to death by his foes. Those without sin should cast the first stone, the Bible says. But it was not the presidente but Jesus Himself who made the challenge. Jesus had the moral authority to do so. GMA doesn't. By invoking that biblical injunction, GMA implied that it is all right to lie, cheat or steal because everybody is doing it anyway.

Mr Arroyo says that she has St. Michael on her side. That's debatable. Or has she gone to consulting either her controversial husband Mike Arroyo or her spokesman Mike Defensor?

—JOPEY JAMES B. DEBACA,
Nalinlang Gil, Pasita, Oroquieta City

Cheers for De Quiros

I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE CONRADO DE QUIROS for his very brave opinions on the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency. He is exactly my voice and the voice of other people who do not have the means to shout out our disappointments with what has been happening in our country.

Wherever this feeling of discontent and anger will lead us, one thing I assure him, I'll be there. More power to he Quiros and keep fighting!

—MAY CARA,
kara1114@yahoo.com

Against De Quiros (but not for GMA)

I USED TO READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE columns of Conrado de Quiros. But then have become outstanding, all their contents are views against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

I'm not pro-Gloria, but I hope De Quiros will once again appreciate variety, not just limit his columns to GMA stories. There's the rub, Mr. Quiros.

—MARIANO ALCANTARA,
pawee@hkl.yahoo.com

What neutral military?

NOW WE CAN SEE CLEARLY WE HAVE A MILitary which is not truly neutral but is leaning to the person of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Brig. Gen. Francisco Esquivel and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan are heroes for coming out and confessing that they were cheating in the 2004 elections, in which some of their superiors allegedly played a key role.

The officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines must be insulated from partisanship so as to protect the sanctity of the ballot and right of suffrage of every citizen, among other reasons. This principle of law is violated by Executive Order No. 464 which effectively seeks to protect those in the military who have violated this principle.

The law allows members of the military to take shelter under a technicality if prosecuted for military people while punishing the good ones. It is another way of perpetuating a wrong done by persons in highest ranks of government, among them GMA.

—TERESITO CUEVAS,
drtescuevas@yahoo.com

Prelude to martial law

ALTHOUGH MARTIAL LAW HAS YET TO BE declared, it is already upon us. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed that when he said that the government will enforce the "rule of calibrated preemptive response in lieu of the maximum tolerance" (PTR, 9/23/'05) against militant groups and the opposition in rallies and demonstrations against the administration, CPR is reminiscent of the curtailment of the freedom of assembly during the Marcos era.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also showed tendencies before some 13,000 members of the League of Barangays during their regional meeting in Candelaria, Pampanga and on nationwide television when she asserted her authority by declaring that "[m]apaalis ko ang sino man ng gumagalaw at mga mangagaguli na pulis-bulacan" (I'll have all those making trouble for the government arrested).

This could be a prelude to the declaration of martial law.

—GREGORIO O. TINTIA III,
#7 Rizal Street, Barangay Canambogan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie Q. Velarde

PAOLO Serrano as Mark, the slam-dunk macho dancer in "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John."

TAKE FIVE

The gospel according to Gil Portes

Award-winning filmmaker goes digital again for a Cinemanila entry

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT STARTED WITH A DARE.

And since award-winning filmmaker Gil M. Portes is not one to shy away from a challenge, he agreed to use a digital camera for his latest work, "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John," an entry to this year's Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Portes entered the proposition that lets you pamper on the digital bandwagon, in 2003, he made his first digital feature under Star Cinema—"El," starring Ruby Rose and Gabbi Mercado.

"El" tells the story of an aspiring DWP advocate (Mercado character is rejected because he has a suspected cloudiness in a camcorder.

"It went straight to video," Portes quips, laughing. "It was shown on [the ABS-CBN cable channel] Cinema One. We were among the pioneers of the digital movie."

Just like "El," "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John" is a slice of life film. "Injection, inspired by the real stories of people around me," the director admits.

The disparate and desperate stories of a masseur, macho dancer, DJ (Jason Gutierrez) and tween (Dawson, performer) come together at the Redemption Center Church in Quezon city. Matthew, the night.

Portes tells the story behind the movie.

What led you to this project?

A friend [Gutierrez and gave me money to do this film.

How cruel!

Small. Don't tell them it's not more than one million pesos. After the friend gave us the concept [of the four characters], my collaborators [Adolf Alix and Grendy Quer] and I worked on the script.

How has digital technology changed since 2003?

It has advanced immensely. Back then, we used a Canon Excel camera. This time we used a Panasonic that shoots 24 frames per second. If you blow it up, it'll look the same as film.

What's your take on the debate: film vs. digital?

There's no difference. You do the same shots. You direct the same actors. You edit the same way.

The only DV camera, in fact, is very flexible. You can lug it anywhere. Once, you don't have to process negatives. You can even check the footage, right there and then, on the set. It has more advantages.

Someone said digital was the poor man's film. Excuse me? That's insulting to all the independent filmmakers who use digital cameras. What are today's filmmakers being about? The same old sweet stories they keep rehashing. Independent filmmakers are more daring and adventurous. Even if the you'll feel, films—"Manoblast" and "Ang Pagdadasal ng Kabayo"—are more short self-digital unless we send they were to film has truly shrunk.

It's a digital revolution.

It's all over the world. Last year, Tom was the Palme D'Or in 2000 at the Cannes Film Festival with "Dancer in the Dark," a digital film. In 1998, Thomas Vinterberg "The Celebration" won the Jury Prize in Cannes.

It's just us Filipinos who are lagging behind because of the influence of [film companies] Regals, Fuji and other people who look down on digital films as low-budget and cheap.

Cinemanila ends tonight. Portes' movie will be screened today, awards night is on Oct. 19. The festival winds up Oct. 23.

Opening Today

Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Featuring the voices of Peter Sallis, Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter
Directed by Nick Park and Steve Box

SUMMARY: Wallace is an inventor. Gromit is a dog. They're their first feature. Wallace sells old brands to his great but reckless deeds, and Gromit takes the role of adult guardian. Lady Tottington is looking for hers. It's 14-19 pressed assorting... classic hits, and all the gardeners for miles around are losing their vegetables, tomatoes and cucumbers and carrots and such, and Wallace and Gromit are supposed to be securely, rabbit-proof, keep rogo debris out of the garden patch. ra...

Peggy Elliot, in his Oct. 7 review for The Chicago Sun-Times, wrote: "Wallace and Gromit are arguably the two most delightful characters in the history of animation. Between the previous cartoon shorts and I paused thoughtfully and cursed with some one thought it's all of The Other animated characters I have ever met, and I gave full credit to Hugo Emery and high marks to Lindsay Doran and to Gromit, and returned to the page convinced that you, Wallace and Gromit are in a category of their own. To know them is to take a piece of Edwardian optimism, in which two creatures who are perfectly suited to each other venture out every morning to make the world into a safer place for the gentle, the good and the funny."

Lord of War

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Bridget Moynahan
Directed by Andrew Niccol
PLOT OUTLINE: Academy Award winner Nicolas Cage confronts the morality of his work as he is relentlessly chased by an Interpol agent (Hawke).

Tyler wrote this Sept. 16 review for the Boston Globe: "[The movie] literally starts off with a bang. The film's opening sequence, scored to Buffalo Springfield's 'For What It's Worth,' is a shot from the point of view of a bullet as it makes its way from a Russian factory to ... Afro the Soviet or an anonymous young African man. He may be a child soldier, or he may be an insurgent. The bullet doesn't care. 'Lord of War' is obviously smar...

Schrimpf—an act of mutual assured preservation. ... and, for the most part, it works unusually well. ...

The movie wants to make you up and make you mad enough to do something, but aside other filmmakers, Niccol ("Gattaca") has the ability to get you thoroughly involved and thinking of the scenario. His outrage is bolstered by an artful writer's native knowledge of what his characters will do next."

Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo

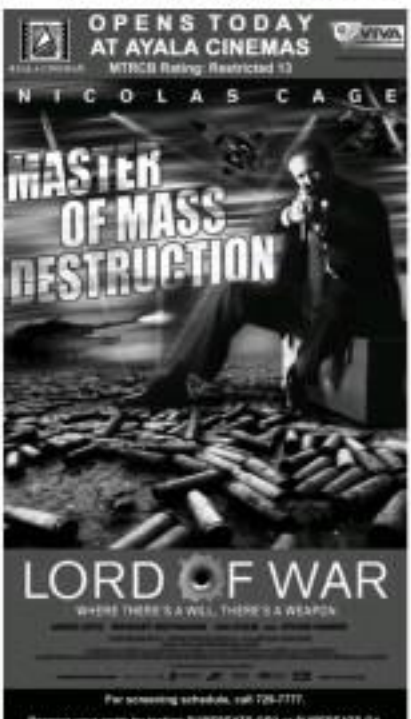
Stars: Rob Schneider, Eddie Griffin, Jeroen Krabbé
Directed by Mike Bigelow
SUMMARY: Stimulated by the death of his wife, Deuce journeys to socially acclaimed Amsterdam to find that his gigolo prowess is still. Deuce gets into trading, unaccepted of killing his clients.

Peter Stephens, in his Sept. 30 review for The Guardian, wrote: "Gabrielle Papadopoulos, the website reporting, I am referring to my own technical writer watching this very immature comedy from Rob Schneider. I giggled guiltily throughout. It's about the adventures of an unsophisticated male prostitute from America visiting Europe, and is in fact the sequel to his 1999 comedy Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo, for which one 40 Modern Classics accomplishment holds. It's rude, crude, and ... how can I put this? ... sometimes even outside the provinces of genteel good taste. I laughed; I wasn't the only one."

Dungeons & Dragons 3: The Elemental Might

Stars: Mark Dodmond, Chauncey Bolton-Hall, Bruce Payne
Directed by Kerry Lively
SUMMARY: Based on the phenomenally successful role-playing game, the sequel takes you deeper into the dark and fantastical world of this fantasy epic. Evil sorcerer Damodan elevates the elements (cloud, earth and plasma) to take over the Kingdom of Nerath. Only a group of unlikely heroes, including an amateur sorceress pole-face heroine and up to stop him.

Meredith posted this review on imdb.com: "I was amazed [when] I found out that they were making a sequel to Dungeons & Dragons movie... Thankfully this time, the source material was taken more seriously and the project was put in better hands."



Roundup

Old National Geographic Channel insight at 9, "Catastrophic San Francisco Earthquake," at the "Savage Earth Week" series continues.

"IN 800-cal Condition," iconic news staged recently in California, Nevada and New Jersey and starring Nanette Inventor, Jon Santos and Lea Martinez, will go on a second US tour next year.

Feedback

FROM Alvin Lumaderal of Angono, Rizal, via e-mail:

Compared Ms. Nestor U. Torre's opinion about "Star Struck" on ABS-CBN. I understand where he is coming from. But you simply cannot deny the fact that the show is such a big hit and that many Filipinos watch it. This fact, I think, is proof that Pinoys are now ready for these kinds of shows.

* * *

FROM Mozaiha Mohammad of 141 Sheppard Ave. North York, Ontario, Canada (via email): Re "Only PI Hollywood" columnist Ruben Nepales:

I enjoyed reading your articles on the Toronto Film Festival. I made sure I watched on television all the press conferences for the different films at the festival. But I still had a blast reading about them in your column. I always go straight to the entertainment section of "my" on the days that "Only PI Hollywood" comes out. You have such an exciting job. I wouldn't mind trading places with you in my next life. Keep it coming!

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Early Pinoys in US came from Ilocos

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

THE PATRIARCH OF THE NEW ORLEANS Pinoys, the first Filipinos to settle in mainland United States, may not be a "Manileño" but an Ilocano.

"Manileños" or "Filipinos Ciudad" were the terms used by Filipinos to remember of a Manila girl born in the 1700s who escaped and settled in the bayous in what is now New Orleans. These Filipinos were regarded as the first famous ex-immigrants to continental US.

Marina Espina, a trustee of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and a former associate librarian of the Earl K. Long Library of the University of New Orleans, was the first to bring to the fore this unknown history.

Unfortunately, the discoveries on Espina's research on the Manileños were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina that devastated New Orleans last month.

But interest on the "Manileños" has been revived.

Nestor Pelagio Enriquez, also a trustee of the FANHS, said the New Orleans Pinoys came from another route.

Seafarers

"The Madrigas line and the later immigrants, however, were seafarers from the passenger ship to the Atlantic. The route from Liverpool to New Orleans started with the slave ship from Africa and resulted to jazz with the big brick mansion line. It changed the meeting of Felipe and Bridgett," he said.

"Felipe" and "Bridgett" were Felipe Madrigas and Bridgett Regenia, whom Enriquez described as the "first recorded Filipino-American generation."

The arrivals of the Madrigas and company came around 1840. These were the men who made the Manila village.

"By the late 19th century people from the Philippines were sometimes known as 'Manileños.' I remember British writers from that era and we were listed as from 'Manilla,'" Enriquez said.

"The Manila village of New Orleans was not named as such because the men were from Manila. Most of the New Orleans pioneers were actually Ilocanos," he said.

An Ilocano

But he had reason to believe that Felipe Madrigas was an Ilocano.

Ilocanos were an old photo of the Madrigas and written on its back was a passage that said Felipe was from the Ilocos.

Lawyer Isabel Rodis, also a FANHS member, had this to say about the Madrigas. "Felipe Madrigas was born in 1800 in the Philippines and was a seaman in Europe when he met and fell in love with an Irish passenger on a ship bound for America. Madrigas and Bridgett Regent were married some time in the 1830s and settled in New Orleans where they opened a Filipino restaurant, which catered to the Spanish West Indian and Filipino sailors who would dock in New Orleans."

"She (Irish) daughters married Filipino sailors, one of whom, Rafael Rondaul from Bohol, later became an overseer at a Louisiana plantation. Another Filipino son-in-law from Cagayan later became captain of his own fishing fleet," Rodis said.

THE MADRIGALS. Antonia portrait of Felipe (top row, third from left) his wife Bridgett (in front of him) came from the Ilocos, in a photograph taken 100 years ago.

Slaves

Although there were able to buy plots in St. Vincent Parish Cemetery in New Orleans, the Madrigas couple was buried in a nearby parish Protestant cemetery as outsiders in New Orleans.

Enriquez said the cemetery was hit by a storm and many of the coffins, including probably those of the couple, were washed into the river and out to the sea.

He said the Madrigas, now in its eighth generation, did not have a say as days was no one who owned the family surname.

The Madrigas' photo showed the elderly Madrigas and the second and third generation. One of the grandchildren was born blocked, the great grandmother of Rhonda Ramsing Fox, who lent the original of the photo.

Ancestors

For, a 40th generation Madrigas, worked for the St. Bernard Parish School and was employed from New Orleans to Northern Louisiana, Enriquez said.

Fox, who describes herself as "One Lucy Romero child" at her blog (work log), has this to say about her heritage:

"In my mother's family, we took ancestors were Filipinos ancestors who found their way to Louisiana. Most is and worked here. They left the sea, but they didn't leave the water. Our progenitor, Felipe Madrigas, was a seaman from Ilocos, North of the Philippines who fell in love with an Irish girl named Bridgett Regent. She was a passenger, coming with her family to America, and he was a crewman on the ship."

"(Bridgett) was just a teenager, and (Felipe) was more than 10 years older, but she told he was a handsome and charming man, and she fell in love (with) him). On arrival at the Port of New Orleans, she informed her parents that she would not be going on to New York with them, and they left, downstream, never to speak to her again," Fox said.

"I have become my mother and her mother, the daughters of seafarers and fishermen, who, in the absence of men, determined their fates for themselves."

[illegible]

Across the NATION

[illegible]

Terror alert up in Visayas, Mindanao

AUTHORITIES HAVE RAISED THE ALERT LEVEL for terrorism in ports and other strategic areas in the Visayas and Mindanao following reports that members of the terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah have entered the country.

Based on a report from Cebu City, the Philippine Coast Guard in Central and Eastern Visayas issued intelligence gathering of its monitoring experts of the planned smuggling into the country of weapons intended for terror groups and coming from Indonesia and Malaysia.

Indonesia and Malaysia are two Muslim neighbors of the Philippines. The suspects in the bombing in Bali were believed to be Indonesian members of "the JI" whole Malaysia helps push peace negotiations between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Philippine government.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez said the provincial government, with the help of the private sector, has built a P14-mil. ion communication facility to help track down and report terror activities in Cllan town in Sarangani, as well as Aow Abod Ramon and Sarangani towns in Davao del Sur.

He said there are about 4,000 unregistered and registered fishermen in the two towns. Three Indonesian nationals are either residents while others are engaged in barter.

Authorities in Metro Manila recently released the identities of three Indonesian nationals believed to be members of the JI.

The provinces of Sarangani and Davao del Sur two years ago formed a cooperation triangle named Jago CT (Cone Alond Gen. tos-Cllan Sarangani), which is also being promoted as the economic gateway to the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

"We promote Jago-CT because of our distant and ambitious to create development in the island and rural because of fear of the presence of terrorists," Dominguez said.

He said they were holding youth for economic development by training with Indonesia.

Sarangani town is three hours away by boat to Indonesia.

Postdoctoral Institute for Mindanao Asian Culture and Jago CT is being groomed to become a model for BIMP-Eaga and at the same time serve as "borders against terrorism."

"The cooperation that we are doing now on the ground is an example of how we can work together or as someone once said, "in unity."

Dominguez also said the cooperation was working closely with the Philippine Navy in putting up measures to curb piracy which occurs in the areas. —Jody Chalcon, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* and *Romeo Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

3 siblings drown

[illegible]

Frat men face slay raps

[illegible]

Gun amnesty

[illegible]

Environment awards

[illegible]

Mindanao in US

[illegible]

₱21-B road project delayed by 4 months

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) acquisition problems have delayed by four months the construction of the Subic-Clark segment of the 93.7-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project, an official of the project's Japanese contractor said.

"The delay has been about three to four months now but I'm afraid that if the Bases Conversion Development Authority[] cannot follow the [ROW] schedule, the delay will be longer," said an official of the Fujitsu Obayashi JV Mitsubishi Joint Venture who spoke to the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity.

The source did not say how the delay would affect the 31-month-work schedule or if the construction cost would increase as a result of the slowdown.

The government is building the road on a ₱1.93-billion (or four-fifth billion) loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The state counterpart BCDA has put up 15 percent of that amount as counterpart funding.

The BCDA is tasked with buying ROW for the four-lane highway connecting the Subic Bay Freeport in Bataan and Santiago, Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and Tarlac and the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

Robert Corrocio, chief of the BCDA ROW department, said the delay has not been that long, as the Japanese official has described. But Corrocio said the BCDA was indeed hastening efforts to acquire the land.

"We have asked Fujitsu its priority areas. What I did is to organize teams to go to the problematic areas. We have been appraising [the value of the lands]," he said.

Of the 1,077 hectares bought to provide 60 meters of land at every stretch of the road, the BCDA has already used state power to claim private property. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Chief

SOLAR DRYER

It's palay harvest time in the city of Cavalen, Davao Sur and the city's streets again turn into open solar dryers.

Defensor says firm's logging stays suspended

DEFENSOR

DAVAO CITY—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor on Monday said the 19-year-old suspension of the logging operations of Oro Mahogany Incorporated Wood Products Inc. (OMWPI) in Davao Oriental stays.

Mahogany operated on a 15,000-hectare area in the province until the suspension of its Timber License Agreement (TLA) on July 15, 1986 by then National Economic Minister Vicente Mendoza because of alleged poor performance in reforestation activities.

Earlier, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel asked Defensor to revoke the approval granted by his predecessor Undersecretary Ramon Paje for the transfer of Mahogany's timber concession to Top Life Lumber Co.

Pimentel expressed concern over the continuing destruction of the forest cover of Southern Mindanao, considered among the few remaining forested areas in the country.

But Defensor said he did not approve "any logging concession or the transfer of any concession over the area." Defensor said Mahogany's concession was not transferred to Top Life and that the company's operation remains suspended.

But a copy of his June 7 memorandum, which the Inquirer obtained from the DENR Southern Mindanao regional office here, indicated that Defensor had indeed lifted the suspension order on Mahogany's operation.

In the said memorandum, Defensor said there was no factual and legal ground for the continued suspension of Mahogany's operations. Defensor said he can't see more than ten months after Mahogany asked DENR to allow it to operate again.

Mahogany president Juan Cerido, in a March 23 letter, said the company was willing, capable and ready to undertake reforestation activities within the areas covered by its TLA "to fulfill its responsibility to comply with the requirements necessary for the permanent lifting of the suspension." Anthony Alfeche, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Transfer of Palawan meets new opponents

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—PALAWAN GOVERNOR Joel Reyes joined the mounting opposition against the transfer of Palawan to the Western Visayas region.

In a position paper submitted to Sen. Gen. David Nuez de Leon, the Palawan Provincial Health Board Office said it would be hard for Palawanons to travel to Iloilo City, where most of the regional offices of Western Visayas are located, because there are no direct flights to Iloilo City.

More than 100 health workers signed the position paper.

They explained that most of the referrals they refer to patients are sent to medical centers in Manila.

The regional offices of Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) are mostly located near Manila.

It will be recalled that President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order (EO) 429 shifting Palawan to Western Visayas but it was hit by local officials and residents for lack of consultation.

As a result, the President ordered the transfer to give the Department of Interior and Local Government the chance to consult the residents.

Recent consultations with municipalities revealed that residents prefer to stay with Mimaropa but a civil group called the Kilusan Gene Malampaya is lobbying for a separate Palawan state.

The provincial government is also watching, through an ordinance, for the Palawan Rainforest Restoration (PRR).

It was convened last week so that the results could reach the Committee Commission, for consideration, before its deadline on Dec. 31.

Joyce Tenorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Squatters big NorthRail problem

Front page A1

on 88-km railway linking Metro Manila to San Fernando in La Union. Less than a year later, Cardas would lose his job as a Cabinet secretary and concurrent director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Friends say Cardas became a casualty of Northrail—that grand plan that architects hoped would spur economic growth in central and northern Luzon. Now a bus-boy-economics professor at the University of the Philippines he vaguely rather talk about the project that his lost job.

"Relocating the squatters being the trade would involve huge amounts than the government doesn't have," said Cardas, outlining the first major obstacle to be tackled, from the housing agencies that were being eyed to take charge of the relocation were penniless, he said.

Upto 300,000 people in 80,000 families live along the tracks of the defunct Philippine National Railways that are to be rehabilitated. Their relocation and resettlement is estimated to cost about P6 billion, Cardas pointed out.

Buried in the legal talk, according to Cardas, is that since the Build-Operate-Transfer Authority had not resolved the issue of the initial investments—around P500 million—put in by DMCI-owned Inc. part of a private consortium involved in the project. (More about this in a later series—Ed.)

The Oman scheme to get the money-poor land ing for the project. The government had created steel hedging the project under the PNR, but it is bankrupt and has no government boundaries.

Romulo Neri, former head of the Cabinet Budget Planning Office, replaced Cardas in 2008, subsequently approved the project, which took off last year on investment loans from the Chinese government. Delays are already blaming the government's obligations.

The squatter problem that Cardas so feared remained. Tensions have rattled squatter colonies along the railway lines into taking their homes—as a recent demolition disproved by Malacañang found out early this year.

The issue looked into the relocation plan for those affected by the first stage of the project—a 32.2-km railway strip from Caloocan to Malolos that was owned by the PNR—million from the Arroyo administration's last salvo from China.

Three market vendors, a laundry woman, a housewife and a leader of a farmers' group who were among those facing eviction were interviewed at random. Two major questions were asked: What do you think of this government? What do you think are the factors preventing Ms Arroyo from doing her job?

Desperate families

In a confidential report in May, the team said the residents unabashedly threatened all the government's perceived shortcomings. In addition, they pointed their brains out on a wide range of problems—from lack of job support entities and facilities in the relocation area to human rights abuses.

The team reported that the residents did not mind the relocation program core supervised by Vice President Noli de Castro. They said they still did not know where they would be sent packing. They were concerned the government would swoop in penniless of a better life.

"Families are desperate and have turned their anger against the President," the report said. Some residents were concerned that the funds would either pocket the money earmarked for them or make money out of their misery.

Reply to the Abaca team's questions were "hanging in mid-air." the report said. "All of these were critical of the government."

Because the contract awarded by the Arroyo administration to China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. Group (CNMEC) did not include funding for resettling the squatters, reluctant because a government function-devoted 19 billion from foreign loans was earmarked for the initiative.

Relocation began in May. Residents were given 30 days to dismantle their shanties after receiving a notice. It was to begin last November, but disagreements delayed the movement.

The squatters had been told at least 18 times by local officials and police that their homes would be demolished, each time discouraging have day-to-day activities.

"Now I'm losing my homes, we are also losing our peace of mind," said a Malolos resident who called himself only as Alvin for fear of being denied the relocation benefits. "Nobody was talking to us clearly of their plans," he told the Inquirer.

In May the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chaired by De Castro listed the relocation package: lots worth P300,000 each, housing materials, loan assistance of P50,000 and community facilities at the resettlement sites. It also included grants of up to P12,500 for reaching, with the staging area and food allowance.

The several tents, an earlier Inquirer visit their aides identified himself only as Bonifacio A, those relocating would have to shell out P688 to be included in the list of those moving. So money, no entry, he was told.

Bonifacio fainted into the internet. He had just been laid off from a furniture company that had been severely affected by a big fire. He had to fight his way in the queue, only to be pushed upand driven away by the security guards.

Some of them formed or joined ad hoc peer groups to publicize their plight by staging demonstrations.

Common complaint

A common complaint was lack of transport, water and electricity, schools and other services in the relocation sites.

In Malolos, the National Housing Authority also offered another option: dead of the "built preliminary" program (cost: per P50,000, for each year buy and go back to your respective provinces), or be relocated to the already developed Tonsuya site in Bulacan. Many squatters had rejected this site for being far from their workplaces, existing sources.

De Castro has denied that the settlers are being forced to move to the relocation sites without any facilities or services. "We are implementing an incremental development of the resettlement sites. We have already paved the roads, and other services like water and electricity will follow-shed by," De Castro said.

Administration officials said they have gained momentum to the project in the May 2004 elections. Mr Arroyo lost heavily in Cabanatuan and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. Of the total Bulacan votes cast, Ms Arroyo got 257,000 against that's 105,164.

Things turn worse

"I don't see anything good about this government," said Alvin. "We are mad." He says when President Joseph Estrada was ousted in 2001, hopes were raised. "We thought things would turn for the better. It turned for the worse."

The Inquirer team that visited some of the relocation sites echoed the squatters' reservations.

The team recommended a series of actions, including joint monitoring of the relocation and government supervision of the transfer "from the time of the dismantling of their dwelling to the time it is settled in the new site," the report said.

In August, De Castro announced that the Arroyo had approved a P22,000 additional subsidy to each relocated family. De Castro also engaged in a series of P6 billion to woo the residents. In July, he stood as sponsor to the mass wedding of 95 couples at the former Bonanza church in Malolos.

A single mother of five, Elsa Hilario, 31, expected Bishopthing to get by says, "It' s hopeless," she said. "We don't own the land where we stay. We don't own anything."

She said the Northrail might eventually give her family some livelihood, like selling food and cigarettes, near the stations here in Malolos.

"Who knows, the Northrail project may bring us a message of hope, except that, to us, Ms Arroyo is not the right messenger," she said.

SC petitioned to stop project . . .

Neri, Economic and Development Authority Secretary Augusto Santos, Northrail and CIE MO).

Representing the squatters were the Urban Poor for Action, Bulacan Urban Poor Federation, Kilusan ng Maralita sa Mayamaysay and the Bagong Salve-lead Brothers Association.

The petitioners noted that the Northrail project is being financed through a "tied loan" from China Export-Import Bank, which requires the bank to nominate the contractor for the project to be financed by the loan.

The arrangement, they said, was illegal because it was not among the alternative methods of procurement.

In February, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada questioned alleged excess provisions of the deal with China and called for an investigation. The Senate committee of the whole, chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, opened the long-delayed hearing on Sept. 20, but top administration officials long turned the meeting. This followed a ban on Congressional appearances imposed by Ms Arroyo.

Drilon himself had commissioned the SC Law Center study. Drilon cited anomalies in the Northrail contract when he broke away from the Arroyo administration in July for her resignation for allegedly rigging last year's presidential election.

Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the relocation of squatters along the tracks of the project would continue regardless of whether the contract was nullified or not. He said they were living in unsafe areas and would have to be moved anyway.

"Part of the PERDC mission is to give the poorest of the poor a decent house where they will be safe. Whether the Northrail contract is nullified or not, the relocation will continue," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

De Castro appealed to his detractors not to link the relocation to allegations of irregularities in the contract.

Jose Cuervo, Metro Luzon Railway Corp. president, had said questions on the contract were related to the Senate impeachment attempt against Mr Arroyo.

Cuervo pointed out that the Senate had already proven in its own investigation nine months ago that the project was legal and that anyone interested few bias lips on the same by the Senate and the House of Representatives had come to the same conclusion.

"All I can say is that this is really alarm board, there are no irregularities. The problem is it's being revived because of the impeachment," he said in a radio interview.

Linked to destabilization?

De Castro could not say whether the alleged irregularities in the contract were linked to destabilization attempts against the Arroyo administration.

"My name is being mentioned because I am in charge of the relocation project but I have nothing to do with the contract. As long as the government can explain that it is above board, I don't see any problem," De Castro said.

De Castro said it was the National Housing Authority which was leading the relocation, and that the money being used for the construction of relocated families' new houses in the relocation sites came from the national government.

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FVR minces no words, says it's a lot of B.S.

destabilization, is doing a great disservice to our people at one time, but with reduced foreign investments and the declining economy at this time, this is all particularly damaging to the 93 alpha people and the Philippine nation. That's the truth of the matter," he said.

'Once is enough'

Ramos, who is credited with "saving" Mr. Arroyo on July 6, the day when the calls for her resignation were loudest, expressed the belief that Filipinos would no longer accept martial law.

"Once is enough," he said, adding that the nation was protected from martial law by the 1987 Constitution.

On the controversial proclamation of emergency rule supposedly being prepared by the Arroyo administration, Ramos said it should be reserved for grand outrages because it was like a preparation for a "nuclear case scenario."

"Let's not worry about the draft because everybody is drafting something," he said. "But if it is put out as an official proclamation, insurrection or order, [that's different]. A government has all ways to be ready to protect its country and its integrity otherwise, it has no right having the government of a great nation like the Philippines."

'Sick and tired'

According to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, remnants of the government declaring a state of emergency and taking over vital industries is now the economic situation unnerved more the base of businessmen's concerns.

"Businessmen run this, [business men] are really sick and tired of politics," Favila told reporters in Malacañang yesterday after meeting his deputies in a roundtable discussion of positive developments in the economy.

Favila said businessmen were after the passage of only three measures—the antiterrorism and antimoneylaring bills and the bill on financial recovery.

He said businessmen would rather engage in making money.

"Kung may para sa impormo, pagusisi, *doon ang inaggawain* [If there's money to be made in hell, they'll go there]," he said.

Favila also said he delivered a speech yesterday at a mining convention that was attended by 10 Malaysian officials.

He said his basic message to his audience was: "This is where the government is and this is where it is going. Don't wait for us to catch up."

After his speech, Favila said, a US Embassy official told him that she was the kind of risk that "should be hosted by the business community."

On certain assumptions

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, made the statement in a press briefing yesterday at Camp Crame when pressed on whether the situation warranted a declaration of emergency rule or martial law.

Bataoil briefly pressed on point on the factors that would precipitate such a declaration, Bataoil would only say that the subject was better left to "appropriate committees" such as the Department of Justice.

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While a sharp economic downturn may lead to a spike in the crime rate or a breakdown in law and order, Bataoil said, peace and order was not the only basis for a declaration of emergency rule.

Obeying orders

Congressfully asked if the PNP would support the declaration of martial law by Ms Arroyo, Bataoil said: "[We] will obey the lawful orders of our superiors."

He added that it was very clear in the mandate of the PNP who this "authority" was.

Bataoil dodged questions on whether events on the ground warranted the declaration of martial law emergency rule or a state of lawlessness.

All he would say was: "Now PNP is not losing focus on its mandate on crime prevention and crime reduction. And we are continuously focusing on street crimes, organized crime groups, terrorist groups, kidnapping, car (theft), and [the] smuggling and investigating [corruption]."

Bataoil also said it was up to the Arroyo administration the establishment that would "ascertain the declaration of a state of emergency."

Attacks on cell sites

In response to a question on whether the PNP were looking at the matter in its meetings, Bataoil presented a copy of a report on armed attacks on the cell sites of the giant Globe Telecommunications firm.

He said the attacks, allegedly conducted by New People's Army guerrillas, were the topic of their recent meetings.

According to PNP records, 16 Globe cell sites have been destroyed or bombed since the start of the year. MORE *a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

'Emergency' jitters linger

days 6th Arroyo to take over key industries. But Defender also said the conditions that would justify such extreme factor arises.

Deputy Majority Leader Heherson Carillon called on the Palace to clarify the controversy and demand that Cayetano should first be bypassed.

Some leading members of the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy also expressed concern.

Concerned about what ED-889 actually provides, Carillon (Dasmariñas) did not wait until public administration lawmaker, Representative Gandhi E. Mahilum), joined the opposition in challenging Malacañang to produce a copy of the presidential directive.

"The Palace should produce a copy of the alleged ED-889 to let the public know its full contents. Without a copy of the draft, the 'national loss' statement of Secretary Cayetano and the Palace will not be enough to douse fears that we would return to the darkest years of history," said Sandoval, vice chair of the House committee on transportation.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Escudero and Malacañang had a duty to be transparent at all times and added: "Show to a copy of the ED to allay people's fears."

Who knows GMA's mind?

A staunch presidential ally Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, said she would not be surprised if Ms Arroyo was contemplating taking extraordinary powers in the face of coup plots and street protests.

"We do not really know what is going through the President's mind. We cannot access the full range of the information she receives from day to day and only from intelligence sources but also from conversations with other world leaders, particularly in Southeast Asia," Santiago said.

"But I must hasten to the point that only this has emerged some time in the President's mind, particularly since there has been no leads from talk about a coup, or marching in the streets and taking over or about having her in custody."

Right of self-defense

Santiago added: "If the President's perceived enemies are taking extraconstitutional measures, it's perfectly natural to expect that she will resort system planting extraconstitutional measures for self defense.

She said any administration has built in self-defense measures. "If she is attacked by them, she is now allowed to defend itself by force."

But other senators scoffed at Malacañang's emphatic denial that Ms Arroyo planned to assume emergency powers.

"Tell that to the Marines," opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, adding that Ms Arroyo administrations had perfected the art of "covering lies with more lies."

Slow descent to martial rule

"When Justice Secretary Gonzalez so clumsily lured on his desk an unauthorized presidential proclamation declaring a state of emergency, what should tell us a lot," Lacson said, referring to an erasure at the justice department when reporters glimpsed a copy of the draft proclamation on Gonzalez's desk.

Some progressive groups warned the takeover of vital industries, including the media, was the only missing component in the series slow descent to martial rule.

Bayan Secretary Rep. Rafael Mariano said Ms Arroyo's order has long has orchestrated from sowing in congressional inquiries, the breaking of demonstrations and political killings "are all major precipes of martial law."

Not buying the story

In a privilege speech, Rep. Rina Fortunato Bacsaysay of Albayan asked Congress to promptly summon Gen. Gonzalez to explain Malacañang's "national emergency plot."

"If the President planning to declare a national emergency on her own? Me in dialogue done the government to give an explicit answer to this question," she said.

Fr. Sen Montiola, convenor of a new ecumenical alliance calling on Ms Arroyo to step down, said his group was not buying Gonzalez's claim that he had drafted the emergency proclamation on his own initiative.

"It's stupid," he told the bureau.

Montiola, a Sulpicianpriest ministry, said his group "strongly" not recommend Ms Arroyo had declared Gonzalez to prepare the draft to quash the persistent opposition in her administration.

Siong is composed of around 20 organizations of Catholic priests, nuns and lay workers demanding Ms Arroyo's resign. MORE *a report from Christine O. Rigonero*

Say Chiz: Cops disappoint gathering of 'destabilizers'

ngay ni Mahrel Bikam Aparan Binay

At that time, political foes of President Maranguad Arroyo were holding a party to celebrate the 38th birthday of Akbar Muneady Leader Fransisco Escudero.

But no police officer came, only to Pinoy de Senecia, who of Spain ez Jose de Senecia, who brought two musical pigs and a birthday cake.

Talking to reporters, Binay, presidency of Liberal Opposition, said that the police could the birthday celebrator could have been sitting ducks had the police and military arrived to arrest them.

Among the guests at the fiesta ex-senator to Prajue it, Quezon City, were Binay, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Laguna Governor Teresita Lazaro and Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Revilla, Ralph Recto and Sen. Manuel Villar.

Other prominent/current lawmakers and party list representatives were from different political shades also came.

Be vigilant

"Make preparation, be vigilant," Binay said, warning reporters to be hardest voice, adding that the media would be the first institution to be pulverized once Ms Arroyo declared martial rule.

The opposition stunna Mr. Binay is poised to impose martial law amid a nationwide campaign against the directors-generalships, according to Dr. Ma Orlanda Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies at the UP National Institutes of Health.

Just two months ago, she said, new doctors were hooked out of a State hospital for the compensation. A similar case occurred in the United Kingdom two years ago.

"This is regarding the patients of the hospitals there," she said in a press briefing yesterday.

Lorenzo said health authorities were compiling cases of doctors-turned-nurses deported from abroad to get a clearer picture of the problem.

"So far, they belong to other so-call the hidden population," she said. "But there are already evidence."

Couldn't help it

Dan's Padilla, president of the Philippine Nurses Association, mentioned another instance in Bristol where a Filipina nurse performed "tutoring" for schoolchildren in accompanying situation.

That didn't sit well with doctors in the hospital, simply because it was not his job as a nurse, she said.

"His being a doctor came out at that instance," she said. "Even if the doctor had the patient statement to save the life of this patient, the thing is you're not supposed to do that because you are employed on record as a nurse."

Padilla said the tendency of some doctors turned nurses was to do "medical management," not render "nursing [job]."

Numbers

The difficulty among some doctors of adjusting to the nursing profession has also been attributed to nursing board exams. While they may be essential to have through the years, some of them simply do not because the thrust of nursing is not exactly the same as that of medicine.

Forty out of some 4000 doctors flunked the nursing licensure exam in June, according to Estrelito Octaviano, chair of the Board of Nursing.

She said the 4000 doctors were among the 2,221 examinees graduates who took the test that time. The others included stylists, engineers and criminologists.

No more special program?

Partly to blame is the special program that has been implemented in the country starting with relative ease, experts said. The program requires them to complete just 1 1/2 to 2 years in a nursing program before they are allowed to take the nursing boards.

Lorenzo said there was a proposal to rescind this special provision for doctors through a memorandum order from the Commission on Higher Education. If approved, the suggestion will take effect next school year, she said.

"We're not stopping them [but want to] allowed to become nurses anymore," she explained. "If they want [to become one], they have to go through the regular four-year program."

But even the regular four-year nursing course has its deficiencies in many schools, health officials said.

Out of the 400 nursing schools in the country, Lorenzo said, many registered only between 5 and 30 percent passing rates in the board exams.

"If you enter those schools, your chances of passing the boards are only between 0 and 30 percent," she said. "There's a bigger probability that you'll fail."

Lorenzo did not identify any of the schools.

Two months ago, she said, three schools had been told by the Commission on Higher Education to "shape up or ship out" with their exams.

The problem was that some politicians reportedly operating some of those schools were blocking their closure, she said.

"In fact, they even lumped into out of fear, angry because are some making their performance public."

"If we can't close them because of political opposition, how will we get the public to bring their children to where the good schools are," she said.

As for those are only 12 schools classified as "excellent performing" [meaning, the passing rate is 90 percent and above] while 77 are classified as "performing well" [meaning with a passing rate of 75 to 89 percent], she said.

12 top schools

Also, of the 400 schools, only 170 consistently produced graduates in the last five years, she said.

"Passing education is deteriorating," she said.

Lorenzo said the top 12 schools were:

- UP Manila
- St. Paul College Iloilo
- Silliman University
- West Visayas State University
- University of Santo Tomas
- St. Louis University
- Mindanao State University
- St. Paul College Dumaguete
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
- St. Mary's University of Bayombong
- St. Paul College Quezon City
- UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center

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QC wants 4 new districts, with or without Cha-cha

By DJ Yap

QUEZON CITY IS META ING FOR FOUR more congressional districts so it could have a more proportionate representation in the House of Representatives.

The city government has been planning to push for additional districts in Metro Manila's biggest city "for a long time," Mayor Herbert Bautista said yesterday.

Charter amendment

This is possible through a constitutional amendment, he said during a caucus. Should the government succeed in amending the 1987 Charter, Quezon City would propose a reinstatement of two and a reactivation of four more congressional districts, he said.

The city started planning the creation of additional districts since talks of Charter change began.

Congressional maneuver

But even if Charter change does not push through, the city would still seek Congress' help on the proposal through its representatives in 2007 or 2008, Bautista said.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the city "needed" more districts, considering its vast size and growing population.

Quezon City has a population of 2.24 million, with five districts and four representatives. Manila, a city of 1.8 million people, has six congressional districts, the mayor noted.

Bautista said the additional districts would mean more funds for the city through the congressional allowance for representatives.

But more than that, he said the city would have proper representation in Congress.

Consultations underway

He added that the city government was consulting urban planners and other experts about the best way to distribute the city with the proposed new districts.

Bautista said the city deserved the additional districts, having seamless road to the nation's outlets as, arguably, Metro Manila's richest city.

However, Belmonte said he was not too hopeful about the plan, since there could be too much politics involved.

Even so, the mayor stressed that the creation of four more congressional districts for the city was not a matter of want but of necessity.

Lotto winner missing after claiming prize

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A RICE MILL WORKER WHO IS BELIEVED missing after allegedly kidnapped by neighbors after he won P50 million in the lottery last month.

The victim, panadero Jun Pontejos Hernandez, 53, of Sto. Monica, Pio Duran, yesterday sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in recovering his grandson-in-law, granddaughter and their two children.

According to Hernandez, his grandson-in-law Cesario Saldivar, 28, won the jackpot prize in the 6/45 lotto last Sept. 12. The victim later claimed the prize from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office with the "help" of his neighbors led by Danilo Joaquin who lived in a compound in Sto. Cristo, Bulacan, he said.

Hernandez added that his grandson-in-law and his family disappeared with the respective land from Sept. 29. Philippine Star 101 reports the victims were forcibly taken by Joaquin and at least six other men.

"Danilo and their other neighbors duped my grandson-in-law in, so going there means for serious business. Then took him, his wife and children," Hernandez said, adding that the suspects initially denied the abduction.

One of the suspects said they were accompanied the latter's relatives when he bought a ticket to his hometown in Bicol.

Hernandez, however, stressed that the two still awaken, as another, came to Bulacan at the age of 12.

"He does not have a family in relatives in in the province anymore," Hernandez said.

Appropriate charges will be filed against Joaquin, his sister-in-law Mary Ann Alcalde and relatives Nestor Joaquin, the group's lawyer Leopoldo Gil Marta, and several other still unidentified suspects, according to the NBI.

Muslim detainees seek concessions

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A SPECIAL REQUEST

Muslims detained in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, have a special request for a special occasion.

The 139 detainees have written Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide to allow them to observe rituals related to Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and prayer.

In their letter sent through Muslim party-list group Suara Bangsamoro and the Free Rashid'i Movement, the detainees said they were currently unable to hold community prayers and interaction.

"In Islam believes, we have to observe community prayer, especially on Friday and during our observance of Ramadan," "In the names" letter said.

Listening to Koranic teachings and messages from their religious leaders were also important practices during the period, they added.

Muslim detainees had been stopped from holding assemblies after a failed jailbreak and siege that killed 22 alleged Abu Sayyaf members in March that year. May Tangcalan, Suara Bangsamoro international officer said.

The detainees also appealed to the chief justice to allow them to cook their own food since they were required to last from dawn until dusk.

"We can only take our meals at 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. "their letter said.

Ramadan prohibits them from taking food or even a small amount of water during the day.

In their letter, they also complained of poor conditions in the jail.

They said that they were losing dozens of the opportunities to get some rest and were provided with outdated medicine that often caused dizziness and stomach ache.

After the failed jailbreak, they were no longer allowed to use shopping carts and travel together, the prisoners added.

Their water and food rations were also allegedly too little and poorly prepared.

"We are only fed twice a day with one and half cup of rice per meal, and one piece of small fish," the letter said.

The rice served to them had a "terrible" smell and the fish, too, was "tasteless," was "rotten" and caused sickness in their mouths and throats, they claimed.

"Justice Davide, we are not hardened criminals," they stated in the letter, adding that they have yet to be convicted.

The Muslim inmates arrested in July 2005 had been linked to kidnapping convicts Palmares and Baclaran and bombings in Manila.

Singer Bublé back 3rd time around

By Nikko Dizon

"YOU GIVE BOOK AND YOU'RE with."

This was how popular Canadian Michael Bublé, in his debut as the Answers Center, described his Filipino fans upon his arrival with his band from Sydney yesterday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

"It's always a pleasure to be back and I look forward to tonight's show," the amiable singer told the hacienda.

This is Bublé's third visit to Manila. The crooner was the star of two successful concerts in the Metro in January 2004 and September 2005.

With his silky, soothing voice, Bublé has reinterpreted popular classics such as "Come Fly with Me," "Sway," "Fever that 'Get Mixed a Boiled Heart," "My Funny Valentine," and "One Heart Head on My Shoulder." A press statement described Bublé as "a Gen-X or with the soul of a swing era crooner."

For his concerts tonight, Bublé will be backed up by a 12-member band. He is expected to perform some supervisor, with songs from his latest CD and some of his hits. "Michael Bublé World Tour 2005" is presented by Smart Sympathizing, Rockwell and Sony 92.3 and co-presented by Candle Promotion, Siemens, Sub-Zero, Interbrands, PLDT myDSL, and Philippine Airlines.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

Editor Peter C. Dipasupil

METRO BRIEFS

Elephant tusks seized

[illegible] officers confiscated yesterday 904 kilos of elephant tusks from Portal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora enforcement officials said the ivory tusks, the Philippine Ivory and Wildlife Bureau and 6.48 kilograms [illegible] the tusks worth P63 million.

Mike Citoni and Blanche Flores

At last, new tickets

[illegible] Rail Transit (MRT-3) [illegible] Roberto Ladrimoso said 150,000 new stored-value passenger [illegible] on Oct. 29 to ease a long-standing ticket shortage. Ladrimoso introduced the new ticket, [illegible] Jaime Cardinal Sin, [illegible] Sin and [illegible] Ladrimoso said [illegible] 20 [illegible] 2 to sell old tickets and use them as souvenir passes.

Clarmarie J. Adhuer

3 Chinese nabbed death

[illegible] Chinese nationals nabbed the death penalty yesterday in Caloocan City for selling more than 6 kilos of shabu in 2001. Lenson Sing Chua and Chungwood a were found guilty by Judge Reinerio G. Abuzen, National Bureau of Investigation agents [illegible] Shi Gui Hong Lenson's apartment on M.H. del Pilar Street, Caloocan City during a buy-bust operation.

Randy C. Carvajal

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

E-mail at: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7.net/money
John Raoul D. Mercado
Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

PC BUYER'S GUIDE
The No.1 Computer Magazine

Exports up by a measly 0.8% in August

As growth in electronics demand slows down

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS hardly grew in August as the growth in demand for electronics slowed down, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The NSO said that merchandise exports expanded by a mere 0.8 percent to $3.46 billion from $3.43 billion a year ago. Of the amount, electronics accounted for $1.29 billion, representing a nominal 3.2 percent year-on-year growth.

The August exports brought the January-to-August figure to $30.34 billion, or 4.1 percent higher than the $29.32 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The August exports figure showed the erratic behavior of the country's export performance. In July, the export sector seemed to have already recovered from weakening global demand as exports recorded a respectable 11.4-percent year-on-year growth.

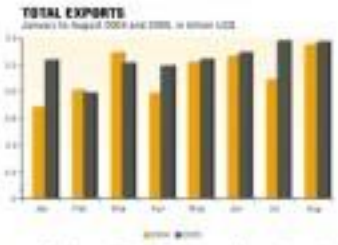
Dennis Arroyo, director of the policy and planning staff of the National Economic and Development Authority, told the Inquirer that the low export growth in August could merely be an effect of a high base in the same month last year. He said that in August 2004, exports of semiconductors, which comprise a large part of electronics exports, grew by 17 percent.

He said that the birds was still hopeful that the 6-percent export growth forecast for 2005 would be achieved. Electronic trend showed that exports tended to jump in the last few months of the year, partly because of the holiday spending, he added.

Arroyo said that the US Institute Industry Alliance, a group of semiconductor firms in the United States, one of the Philippines' biggest export markets, reduced their month and the strong demand for microprocessors, flash memory, cellular phones and MP3 players in the remaining months of the year.

Following electronics in the list of top exports for August were articles of apparel and clothing accessories, which accounted for 7 percent of total exports for the month. Exports of products from this group stood at $245.29 million or 5.1 percent higher than the $220.04 million in 2004.

Other top exports were ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships ($64.04 million); coconut oil ($60.88 million); woodcraft and furniture ($41.04 million); other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis ($37.86 million); petroleum products ($35.6 million); metal components ($31.07 million), and fresh bananas ($25.3 million).



ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations president Benjamin Philip Romualdez welcomes Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong to the Arth & Asia Pacific Mining Conference which started Tuesday at the Manila Shangri-la Hotel.

Robinsons to carry Toys 'R' Us brand in RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ROBINSONS RETAIL GROUP OF TYCOON John Gokongwei Jr. is signing an agreement with Lik Fung, the main franchisee of the American chain Toys "R" Us, to bring the world's biggest toy brand into the Gokongwei mall network.

Sources told the Inquirer that the Robinsons Retail Group will license the brand in its chain of Robinsons malls.

Based in the United States, the Toys "R" Us toy chain also operates in other countries, with around 1,100 stores worldwide. The Toys "R" Us chain was founded by Charles Lazarus in Washington DC during the post-war baby boom era in 1948.

The flagship store in New York City's Times Square is the largest toy store in the world, featuring a colorful ferris wheel.

In March of 2005, a consortium of investors led by buyout specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. agreed to buy the toy giant for a reported $6.6 billion.

Meanwhile, the Robinsons Retail Group includes 1) Robinsons Supermarket (branches and 4) Robinsons Handyman centers, 8) also carries Robinsons Department Store (ROS), one of the biggest department store chains in the Philippines, ROS currently operates a total of 20 stores with 17 located in Metro Manila and three in the Visayas region.

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.18 percent higher yesterday as investors chased stocks of companies expected to report strong profits for the three months to September, dealers said.

Selected electronics-related favorites, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 14.80 points to 1,864.22, Monday's high and off close of 1,849.42. Turnover was 223.3 million shares worth P1.24 billion.

The broader all-shares index gained 6.33 points to 1,108.70.

Sixteen issues rose, 11 fell, 49 stocks unchanged.

Dealers said foreign investors have of late been cautiously accumulating undervalue or bust earnings prospects, taking advantage of low prices and lingering political

WHAT'S INSIDE

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RP taps ODA worth $100M from China

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DISCLOSURES

SCANDI C. Peterson resigned as independent director of Philippine Savings and Loan Corp. due to his acceptance of Presidential Management Staff's invitation to serve as member of the Consultative Commission to propose revisions to the 1987 Constitution.

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. has engaged Honsha J. Calma, partner at Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV), as its external auditor for 2005.

FORUM Holdings Inc. purchased 30,000 of its common shares at P1.19 per share on Oct. 10 pursuant to its share buy-back program.

LUIS DEVELOPMENT Phils. Inc. elected the following new officers on Oct. 10: Luis J.L. Virata, president and chair; Delia Dorothy C. Ness, treasurer; Brigida R. Aquino, secretary; and Christopher Ray L. Fernandez, assistant secretary.

LEVIATHAN & Resorts World Corp. elected the following new officers on Oct. 10: Hilyard O. Sterling, chair; Alfredo Abaquin Jr. Benitez, president; Fernando Ruffino, vice president; Geoffrey L. Urquhart, treasurer and compliance officer; and Enrico S. Ramos, corporate secretary and corporate information officer. Ramos was also elected chief of the audit committee, with Ayuditan and Independent Directors Bienvenido Santiago and Leopoldo Campos, as members. *Compiled by Jamie Alcantara, PDI Research*

OCTOBEST AUCTION 10% 11% 10

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Exports up . . .

(From page B1)

The $42 billion exported into the biggest export market for August was the United States, which accounted for 30 percent of the Philippines' total shipments for the month. Exports to the United States were valued at $691.77 million, or lower by 10.5 percent from last year's $648.7 million.

Other top markets were Japan, $471.2 million; the Netherlands, $234.19 million; China, $208.79 million; Hong Kong, $164.42 million; Korea, $202.88 million; Malaysia, $215.92 million; Singapore, $211.01 million; Taiwan, $166.49 million; and Thailand, $97.91million.

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SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004

UNAUDITED

ASSETS — DECEMBER 31, 2004

LIABILITIES

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

The figures prepared from the 2004 Annual Statement approved by the Insurance Commissioner published pursuant to Section 228 of the Insurance Code.

Bargain . . .

(From page B1)

concerns that have kept most players on the sidelines.

"Most technical indicators suggest the market a ripe for bargain hunting which is what foreign fund managers have been doing," said Jose Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

Exchange records show that between Sept. 30 and Oct. 10 foreign investors were net buyers of equities here worth some P3 billion.

"Foreign players have been picking up stocks quietly as if not wanting to be noticed," Rodrigo added.

Brokers said the peso's strength against the dollar and Monday's decline in yields of short-term government paper might also have boosted sentiment toward the equities market.

The prospect of easing interest rates had dampened enthusiasm for stocks in recent months because it implied tightening in the central bank's monetary policy is likely to take hard income away. do most investors (Inquirer, AFP)

₱390M for Mike cousin, zero for employees

AFTER LENDING P390 MILLION to company owned by another Atlantic Hat shareholder went unpaid, Mike Arroyo-cousin Bro. to "flowboy" accounts now a sightseeing the bank in the ar- sponsored Philcomsat Group, re- ceiving in the cash-and-file not being able to collect business since last week.

The employee salaries have been withheld after the Philippine Atlantic board with banks about a fund-injection TBD that effectively stopped Atlantic and his group from be- ing named in the cash-hit Philcomsat Group.

Because of the fundgate or- der, the Equitable PCI Bank Buendia branch froze the deposi- tory account of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., from which the 20 em- ployees draw their salaries.

Instead of the bank freeze, Equitable PCI Bank chair Wil- fred Martin Bautista-Jr. yester- day said he would consult with bank lawyers to see how the weekly paid employees could be insulated from the festering boardroom squabble between the Malacañang appointees and the majority private shareholders.

Despite a Supreme Court or- der that effectively said the gov- ernment no longer held majori- ty control of the Philcomsat Group, Atlantic and his fellow Malacañang appointee Ahmad Ambil managed to secure the fundgate TRO late last month seeking to prevent the share- holders' meetings held the day before the fundgate TRO was is- sued.

Armed with the 60-day TRO, the Atlantic-led top has provoked an Philcomsat depository banks to allow his group to hang on to the cash deposits and counter shareholders pay- payments from Internet and satellite units.

Originally P12 billion when Atlantic was first appointed to the Philcomsat board by then President Estrada, the cash de- posits had dwindled to about P725 million, according to the second quarter financial report of Philcomsat Holdings.

A Philcomsat Holdings direc- tor, meanwhile Prudencio Reyno, whose block controls 18 percent of the publicly listed company, has expressed con- cern on the company's shrinking cash assets and ballooning "op- erationalization and legal" expens- es.

SC flip-flops on paper ruling

ACTING on combined petitions from San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and Metro Invest Manuel Montevilla, the Supreme Court had scheduled for yesterday afternoon oral ar- guments on their ownership claims over Manila Bulletin.

But the en banc hearing was cancelled after current Bulletin occupant, Emilio Yap, objected, claiming through his lawyers that more talk from lawyers would only "waste... time."

Instead, the Supreme Court agreed with Yap lawyers that the respective counsels would just have to submit their respec- tive memorandums in the ol- lowed.

The court order for the oral arguments was issued on Sep. 15. Yap submitted his opposi- tion only on Oct. 3, the follow- ing day the Supreme Court sign- ature issued an order granting Yap's wish.

Money-go-round

+ JAMES Go, chair of the Robinsons Retail Group, and Victor Fung, chair of the Li and Fung Group of Hong Kong, will announce today details of their agreement to open Philippine branches of the American store chain Toys R Us to retail Robin- sons malls.

+ MAXIMUM shopping bonus from Megaworld Bo- says his personal relations with Lorenzo Shipping chair Jake Ay- ala remain excellent, despite his's ongoing takeover attempt on Lorenzo Shipping.

His made the clarification in correct whatever misimpres- sion may have been made by an Oct. 5 Cocktales column.

Heard through the grapevine

CHOTOSA Orosa Enaile told this month's Philippine Tatler maga- zine that her husband, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, has on his hand 27 girl friends—most—in their nearly five decades of mar- riage.

"At least three (that) I know of," writer Chit Ujimoto quoted Mrs. Ponce Enrile as saying.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com/ d.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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RP taps ODA worth $100M from China

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNMOVED BY THE CONTROVERSIES SURrounding the North Luzon Railway project, the government is working on a fresh official development assistance worth at least $100 million from China to speed up ports infrastructure development to Northern Luzon.

In an interview with reporters on the sidelines of the National Wood Industry Summit at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Monday, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the prospective ODA was discussed during a recent visit to Shikenbang of a Chinese delegation.

Favila said the Philippine government had proposed an LCE-to-LCE (local government units) arrangement in implementing the project.

The trade secretary added there was also a big investor group from northern China that had expressed interest in funding a new port facility in Northern Luzon which could accommodate huge vessels.

"It's not a BOT (build-operate-transfer) scheme. It will come in the form of a concessional loan and we're still working it out with the Chinese officials," Favila said.

"We made some suggestions on which projects would fit. Since LGUs are enjoying a surplus, probably that's one avenue they should look into—link up with local LGUs," he said.

He said the proposed LCE-to-LCE financial assistance scheme would be an innovation in bilateral cooperation.

The development of the port system in North Luzon, he noted, was expected to encourage the entry of more Chinese investors in the mining industry.

Favila cited mixed feelings on the recently lauded $6.000-per-wharfe due to lack of depth for mining enterprises, would need ports with a capacity of at least 300,000 tons.

However, Favila said the enterprises would not want to bring the big vessels too far from the ports as Philippine waters, based on the assessment of some Chinese visitors, were not conducive for it.

"They prefer (their vessels) close to the port and that's what they want to develop," he said.

Favila said the Chinese proponent was offering very good lending terms for the project, with maturity stretched up to 20-25 years.

But Favila said he had to do a lot of explaining to the Chinese investors on issues surrounding the $500-million North Luzon Railway rehabilitation project, which was questioned by certain quarters.

A study by the University of the Philippines earlier recommended the cancellation of the North Luzon Railway rehabilitation contract with a Chinese government corporation and the filing of appropriate law suits. They said the North Rail contract was unlawful and should be voided because it was awarded without competitive bidding as required by Republic Act No. 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The study said the project lacked detailed engineering design and transparent competitive tender to be able to ascertain if the project cost was the best value for money that the Philippine government could have secured.

The JP study also said the contract was of questionable validity for its failure to manifestly with the Government Auditing Code and the Administrative Code of 1987, which require that contracts should first be certified as having the necessary and available appropriations.

Gov't wants RP-Japan deal OKd by Nov.

By Ramon W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUSH FOR THE finalization of a bilateral trade pact with Japan by November, before the start of trade meetings that would gather regional world leaders.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said in an interview that Philippine negotiators would "work hard to get [the Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement] done" although similar issues remained unresolved.

Favila made the statement at the sidelines of the 31st Philippine Business Conference being held at the Manila Hotel.

"We hope to [make the JPEPA a done deal] before the 10th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and the 6th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in December," Favila said.

Next month, Asean leaders will meet in Kuala Lumpur while WTO leaders will gather in Hong Kong.

The trade chief said issues on allowing the cross border movement of workers, such as the entry of Filipino caregivers in Japan, remained one of the stumbling blocks in the negotiations.

Last month, officials have hinted completion of the JPEPA talks might not be reached before it can be signed. Originally, negotiators were expected to have wrapped up its September.

Aside from matters related to the "movement of natural persons," contentious issues include the rules for trade of products and services and how that should tariffs on automotive vehicles be removed.

NTC collects P2B as of Sept.

By Darlene S. Basilio

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has collected P2.07 billion in supervision/regulation fees as of mid-September, exceeding the P1.78 billion collection target set by the budget department.

From January to August, the regulator collected P1.23 billion from its covered entities, which include telecoms, broadcast firms and cable television operators, data from the NTC showed.

In September, the Commission hauled in P822.67 million from covered companies that managed to beat the end-month deadline for the payment of regulatory fees.

In 2004, the Commission collected about P1.5 billion from fees and charges.

NTC chair Ronald Solis pointed out that a portion of the collection was due to a P500-million windfall arising from a compromise deal with Philippine Telephone Corp. in February over the latter's unpaid regulatory dues of the previous years.

DOF: Excess tax collection report was preliminary, subject to change

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has cleared the Bureau of Internal Revenue of responsibility over reporting a higher-than-actual tax collection for the month of September.

The DOF explained on behalf of the BIR that the earlier reported P82.6-billion tax collection for September was only preliminary and subject to change.

The BIR earlier submitted to the DOF a performance report for September which said that its tax collection stood at P73.1 billion, or P9.6 billion more than the P63.5-billion target for the month.

Later, government reports showed that instead of an excess in collections, the BIR likely posted a shortfall of P900 million. — Michelle F. Remo

Int'l banks keen on bankrolling RP gold project

By Christine A. Saplican

SOUTH KOREAN BANKS have expressed interest in financing the $35-million Mainit gold project in Surigao del Norte, according to the company that holds the claim to mine the mineral wealth in the area.

ABN Amro Rothschild, ANZ Bank and the Bank of Mackquarie are among those interested in bankrolling the Mainit project.

"There are the probable banks who have recently approached us and are very interested to provide financing for our project here," said Colin Jackson, director of Australian mining firm Red 5 Ltd.

Red 5 Ltd., through its local subsidiary Greenstar Resources Inc. holds the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) to the project.

Recently, Kim Metro Investment Corp. acquired 30 percent of Greenstar Resources.

Red 5 Ltd. is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Jackson told the Business that foreign financing institutions are now more confident in doing business in the Philippines due to recent developments in the local mining sector.

Although the financing was has yet to be finalized, Red 5 Ltd. and Greenstar Resources plan to source 70 percent of the project financing from the banks, while the remaining 30 percent will be derived from shareholders, Jackson said.

The area is said to contain about 1.05 million ounces of gold.

Red 5 Ltd. is expecting its pre-feasibility and feasibility studies to be completed in the first quarter of 2006, Jackson said.

The company has already spent some P80 million from the date mineral exploration began in early 2005.

After the project feasibility stage, mine plant construction will commence and mineral production will follow a year after.

"Independent technical reports indicate the potential to significantly develop the site with deeper levels using underground mining and open pit and significantly reduce processing costs in the process," Jackson said.

These are not very encouraging times, but there are still a whole lot of reasons to be thankful and happy about!

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John Victor K. Tonco Vice President – Corporate, Human Resources, Jollibee Foods Corporation

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Forex reserves seen to remain at $18B

By Dan C. Dantao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXPECTS its gross international reserves to remain up at $18 billion by the end of the year despite its debt servicing requirements and pressures from the widening trade gap.

The foreign exchange reserves breached the $18-billion mark for the first time in September, with the amount hitting an all-time high of $18.10 billion.

For the remainder of the year, however, a BSP official said the GIR level would be revised lower to payments of maturing debts.

Despite this, the official said the GIR level should remain close to $18 billion.

Despite a rising trade deficit, partly due to the skyrocketing oil import bill, the BSP expects the country to continue benefiting from strong foreign exchange inflows, particularly those from overseas Filipino workers.

The BSP expects cash transfers from OFWs to grow by at least 10 percent this year to $10 billion and by another 10 percent next year.

The GIR—consisting of the the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indication of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy, especially for import duties and debt servicing.

The BSP taps its foreign reserves to supply dollars to the spot foreign exchange market whenever there is a need to quell speculative attacks against the local currency. A high GIR build-up thus provides psychological support for the peso.

The stronger GIR this year was supported by proceeds from fresh public sector loans and robust foreign exchange inflows.

Strong investment inflows are likewise boosting the GIR level, with both direct and portfolio investments rising from its last year's levels.

Despite the surging of the oil import bill, the BSP aims to build up its GIR to a new high of $18.69 billion by next year from the projected $17 billion this year, equivalent to 3.4 months worth of imports.

As the global economy appeared headed for a slowdown this year, the BSP had factored in the possibility that the country could not rely on export earnings alone to generate foreign exchange inflows.

Monterey sales up 12% to P4B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. SAID ITS MEAT FOOD arm posted a 12-percent growth in sales to P4 billion in the first eight months of the year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the company said the total sales volume for the period 9 percent, mainly due to increase in the demand for pork.

Monterey pork sales increased 24 percent for the eight-month period ending August. Pork accounts for 60 percent of Monterey's sales volume.

The increased availability of Monterey products to consumers—notably the addition of 17 supermarket store shops and 53 neighborhood Monterey Meat shops—contributed to the sales volume growth.

Monterey's beef products and other value-added cuts and specialty meats accounted for a total of P1.02 billion in revenue.

The Monterey meat business started as a cattle ranch in Isabela. Monterey Foods now runs the biggest hog and cattle operation and employs the latest technology in breeding, slaughtering, and meat processing.

Monterey has a fully-integrated operation, it operates a major slaughter house and deboning plant in Bataan/San Carlos, the first "AAA" slaughterhouse in the Philippines to be given HACCP accreditation by the Department of Agriculture's National Meat Inspection Service (DA-NMIS).

Both HACCP and ISO are internationally recognized standards, the former relating to hygiene, sanitation and food safety while the latter deals with quality management system.

Monterey has seven hog farms in Bulacan, Batangas, and Cavite and two cattle farms in Isabela, and General Santos.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

25 LIFESTYLE

Sweet dreams are made of screens

Samsung invites everyone to imagine the future of TV. Boy, will couch potatoes be pleased

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

FULL COLOR. Images seem even more real onscreen, thanks to Samsung's 249 billion colors.

BERLIN, GERMANY—YOU think your couch potato lifestyle is already satisfactory? Samsung Electronics will change your mind.

They unveiled innovations in television at this year's IFA, the world's largest consumer electronics trade fair, held every two years in Germany.

Boasting clear leadership in the innovation of TV market, their award-winning lineup of digital and mobile TVs included the world's largest TVs—the 102" Plasma and the 82" LCD TVs and the 71" DLP which aim to provide a theater quality experience for consumers.

And that's not all. They also showed the **reverse SlimFit TV, which has taken away a** third of the thickness of your normal tube television. People also flocked to the display of mobile TVs, which will give consumers access to TV anywhere, anytime.

Samsung has been enormously striving to make things appear more natural on television. Their latest image initiative, the Digital

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Entertainment in your pocket

The Samsung YP-T8 is an amazing little gadget that allows you to play music, watch movies, view pictures and more. And it fits in the palm of your hand

By Pam Pastor

I FOUND IT STRANGE THAT despite my deep love for music, I never felt the need to buy an MP3 player. Until recently.

But I'm not being fair. Because the Samsung YP-T8 is more than just an MP3 player. On its own, "full-on-fine" Entertainment," this digital audio player allows you to open MP3, WMA, ASF and DCG files. It lets you create playlists and organize your music files in neat little folders for easier access. The sound is good and the equalizer allows you to change settings depending on the music genre you're listening to.

But the YP-T8 does so much more than just play music.

FM radio

If you're tired of the songs you have stored, you can listen to FM radio. The YP-T8 is also equipped with FM, voice and line-in recording. This little multimedia wonder comes with software applications that allow you to convert music and videos and transfer text and photo files from your computer.

You can also use the player as a USB host device (your daddy's). With this feature, you can use it to connect to your digital camera and to other MP3 players for quick file transfers. It's like its pare allows you to connect CDs, use stereo and radio-play into MP3 format without using your computer.

Thanks to its 1.8" TFT-LCD screen, this flash memory based multimedia player lets you view text files and photos in JPEG format. You can bring your favorite photos with you everywhere and you can even read e-books! Maybe not the latest "Harry Potter" classic, but more reading a book that long on a small screen might strain your eyes. Or maybe you can...for in small doses.

This marvel also plays videos in the MPEG4 format. So, you read that right. It can play videos.

Meaning, that while my boyfriend was battling the city traffic (ironically, I was busy watching "Chicago" and "Seven Magazine"). Meaning, that we were able to show our friends a video of our last vacation while having dinner in a busy restaurant.

Samsung's Multimedia Studio software which comes with the player facilitates conversion of videos into the .SVI format so you can view them on your YP-T8.

And to think I was hating over a portable MP3 player.

Addicting games

When Samsung says "entertainment," it wasn't kidding. The YP-T8 also comes with games that are addicting.

The Motion Driving Games, a new mini-version, lets you play by using hand motions. With One Shot Shot!...you can play darts without pressing a button. You actually hold the YP-T8 in your hand and pretend that you're throwing a virtual dart. With Crazy Hurdles, you can also play 3-D on hurdles by making the YP-T8 in your hand. Sure, it makes you look silly when you do it in public. But hey, art is a fun.

Although I enjoy throwing imaginary darts and getting hurdles a shot without breaking a sweat, my favorite game is Plus Dream Plus. I am seriously hooked. I reached level 11 and I still didn't want to stop. There's also Heroes, something Tetris lovers will find interesting.

The YP-T8 comes with a built in rechargeable Li-Ion Battery that lets you play music for up to 20 hours, and different buttons for easy navigation.

So overall my mate makes it convenient for carrying around. It's ideal for long flights, days of boring traffic (which seemed to be every day this past week) and yes, boring classes. Just don't get it confiscated.

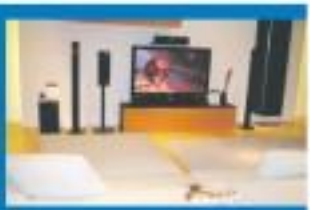
The Samsung YP-T8 is available in 256 MB, 512MB, 1GB and 2 GB. Check it out at your favorite electronics shops.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

ALL-IN-ONE Entertainment. No kidding.

SAMSUNG was a big favorite at IFA 2005.

HONEY Jessica Lang, Women's Elana Ilgo, Alcatel Pamela Tio, Spencer Shee, Angie Cardenas, the author and Cecile Mendoza at Berlin's Legends Brandenburg gate



LIKE being in your own living room. Almost.

Sweet dreams are made of

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines president and CEO Spencer Shin, and Samsung Southeast Asia and Oceania president and CEO Park Sung Jin

FROM TOP: mobile TV demonstrations; Angie Cardenas, Samsung Electronics Philippines corporate marketing head, checks out Samsung's digital audio players; You can have your photos printed at the digital photo printer booth.

Samsung's Hall 3D is the ICE into a virtual playground for lovers of technology. Samsung also showcased its many other products. Camcorders, printers, notebook computers, PDAs, mobile phones, digital audio players—it was every tech-head's dream come true.

Highlights of the showcase include the YP-M2200 and the YP-M810 consumer digital video cameras (compact digital video cameras and digital still camera with MP3 player, voice recorder, data storage and built-in camcorder). It is a unique one-in-one multifunction product), the SO-HB3000 and SVG2700HS DIG-quality video recorder with network networking system and portable DVD player with digital multimedia broadcasting), the SPH2020 and SPH2040 (wireless PC-independent photo printers remarkable for their compact design and great connectivity) and SENS notebook PC (The SENS is the world's first notebook PC with a detachable monitor that can be used for any display application.)

The products displayed allowed interaction. There were lots of opportunities for the media playground to test those cheesy songs that allow you to enjoy the televisions as if you were in the comfort of your very own living room. You can actually touch the computers and play with the mobile phones. There was even a sports car with a mobile TV that you can try. Guides were ready to answer questions and to provide more information. One favorite was the digital photo printer area where you can have your photos taken and printed with Samsung's newest printers.

The convenient upshot is their slew of products shouldn't be in a surprise. After all, Samsung announces 8.4 percent of its revenue in research and development. They have 13,500 people with PhDs and 37,000 employees with master's degrees who are all working hard to create improvement and innovation.

Park Sung Jin, president and CEO of Samsung Southeast Asia and Pacific, talked about Samsung's constant drive to create a technological revolution. "We cannot wait until the market is ready. We must cause change. Be smart first."

And although technology takes a lot of work and even seems intimidating to others, Park is quick to point out that "digital technology, profound for fun and fashionable."

Samsung's efforts have been paying off. It received the European Imaging and Sound Association award for LCD TV Home Cinema System and Portable Media Player.

Consumer bonding

Park also stressed the importance of Samsung's emotional bonding with the consumers by providing products that can make a difference in their lives. "We are working very

SAMSUNG transformed Hall 3D into a digital playground.

THOMAS Fortuna, Samsung's director for corporate marketing; Gregory Lee, Samsung's senior vice president and chief marketing officer; Gee Sung Choi, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Digital Media Division; Dan Baer, senior executive VP of Discovery Communications; and David Stead, VP of marketing for Samsung's consumer electronics unit

MEMBERS of the media from all parts of Asia had a hands-on experience at IFA's Samsung hall.

hard to meet customer satisfaction by developing the most updated technology. Such technology shall think in, tailored to a product that can also real benefits."

Jong-Jong Yun, vice chair and CEO of Samsung Electronics said, "We will always strive to challenge digital limits and provide customers with leading-edge products that truly enhance their lives."

Samsung Electronics also took IFA as a chance to bond with the media and their partners from different parts of Asia. They organized a gala dinner at the swanky Ritz Carlton hosted by Stefan Baumgartner, a face made familiar to everyone by MTV.

Guests dined on herbed tuna with Lemon Pepper and Confit and Yellow Beet Juice Carpaccio, Asian Flavored Seabass Tempura Warm Duck Liver Cream with Pineapple Chutney Anatomia Beans and Crispy Brioches. But Fried Cod on Potato Soufflé and Iris Fried Baby Squeezies, Leeks and Basil Jus and Lemongrass Panna Fruit Parfait with Grilled Granola Raisins and Coriander Kisses.

Sure, famous for their wonderful performances of tickles dubbed in the kitchen, added with beats, humor and historic flavor to the evening. To the delight of the stars, Samsung also brought in Bond, the new bright-Australian string quartet, for a stirring performance.

Samsung will be a lot of surprise in store for today's customers. As Park said, "As long as we can imagine, we can develop technology."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Which digital audio player are you?

Take this quiz and find out

By Pam Pastor

MP3 PLAYERS ARE NO LONGER JUST MP3 PLAYERS.

Samsung has eight new offerings, each one more attracting than the once. How do you figure out which is the right choice for you? Take this quiz and find one.

1. It is early on a cool Sunday...
a. Downsizing after a long busy day.
b. Taking changes in the movie playlist.
c. Partying, what else?
d. Taking photos of everyone.
e. Napping you drink, people watching.
f. In a corner, talking to your friends.
g. Looking good.
h. Checking out the interiors.

2. What's on your wish list?
a. The hottest gadgets. You love anything hi-tech.
b. No MP3 player, a new phone, a list of IDs.
c. Amazing entertainment system, the newest game console, a portable DVD player.
d. A new camera, a portable printer.
e. Books...bad that. You're not big on material things.
f. A new computer to replace mine did one. Or something really practical like that.
g. Clothes, bags, accessories, more clothes.
h. Accessories.

3. If you had one, your blog would mostly be about...
a. Your favorite websites, reviews of gadgets, techie stuff.
b. The concerts you go to, your favorite bands, your current playlist.
c. The movies you've seen, the TV shows you love to watch, the games you play and other things that keep you occupied.
d. Your life, as shown through pictures. It will be a photoblog.
e. The books you read, the things that inspire you.
f. Words.
g. Your latest fashion conquests, what's next on your list of things to buy.
h. You're not into blogs. You'd rather keep a real journal, retro digital-wise.

4. Your friends would describe you as...
a. Someone who wants everything laid out fits.
b. A huge music fan.
c. A computer-savvy geek.
d. Their resident photographer.
e. Simply but beautiful.
f. Practical.
g. Stylish and fashionable.
h. Old-fashioned. A lover of anything classic.

5. What's your big passion?
a. Technology.
b. Music.
c. Movies.
d. Photography.
e. Books.
f. Work.
g. Fashion.
h. Art.

The results:

Mostly A's

You're the Yi-J3, the Multi-mode Sensation. This body comes with either 256MB or 2GB of space. It supports WAV, MP3, WMA, AAC and Audible A2F.

Positions its 1.8" TFT-LCD, it can play MPEG4 video files and can view JPEG images and text. With video recording, an FM tuner and five games, this all-in-one gadget can keep you occupied for hours.

Mostly B's

You're the Yi-J60, the Multimode Collection, available in 4 or 8GB, this kid toy can play OGG, MP3, WMA, WAV and Audible A2F files. You can also view JPEG images, play games and watch MPEG4 Video Files with its 1.8" TFT-LCD.

Mostly C's

You're the YP-T8, All-in-One Entertainment. It comes in 256MB, 512MB, 1GB and 2GB (Built-in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, AAC and WMA 9 files. It can view JPEG and bmp files. It includes voice recorder, an FM tuner, an AM radio and recording and file encoder for Motion Embedding Gaming.

Mostly D's

You're the YP-J1, with 5M Pixel Digital Camera. Equipped with a 1.8" TFT-LCD, this gadget comes in 256MB, 512MB, 1GB and 2GB (Built-in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, WMA, Audible A2B, JPEG and MPEG4 Video files. It also has a Voice Recorder and an FM Tuner. Build enhances it apart is its user-engagement comes with digital scene

Mostly E's

You're the YP-T7, Compact and Multifunctional. Aside from allowing you to make voice recordings, view JPEG and text files and play OGG, MP3, WMA, AAF files, this powerful little tool allows you to record movie files. It comes in 512MB, 1GB and 2 GB.

Mostly F's

You're the YP-Q1, Simple and Easy. Choose from 1 NGB, 2 GB and 4 GB. This player lets you listen to OGG, MP3, WMA, AAF and WAV files. It has also has sound for voice recordings and as a flash disk drive.

Mostly G's

You're the YP-Y1, High Style Looks. Ready to rock just catch deep. The YP-Y1 comes in 256 MB, 512 MB and 1 GB (Built-in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, AAF and Audible A2F files. Color has an FM tuner and a voice recorder. It has a wireless earphones and listen/recharge cable which so you can play it on inside your outfit.

Mostly H's

You're the YP-W2G, Splendid Music Design. This dream looking player comes in 1 G (Built-in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, WMA, WAV and Audible A2B files. It is equipped with voice recorder and it has its 1.22, touch keypad, stereo function and an FM Tuner.

Win a Samsung YP-T8!

Because Style is celebrating its birthday (can't...but that's the one from Samsung are giving away three Samsung YP-T8. Pink, Silver! Tell us (or draw, if you're creative) how you filled up the answer like, use of the digital audio player and you might be the lucky one of our lucky winners. We are in age when we're not like.

Email your entries to contest@summerquiz.com.ph. Entries must be in by Oct. 20. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/ office and contact information.

CLOCKWISE, from left: Berlin Soriting, The Philippine Star's Penny Jacque Lesaj, Summary's Angie Lontoc Jr., the author and Manila Bulletin's Candy Manalaon. Below, Sun.ai ISDs the future of TV: unbelievably huge screens and mobile television

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Passion statement

Text and photos by Nito Mart M. Sablan
INQ7 Correspondent

PUSHING DEPS PASSION PROMISES A LIFE full of rewards, fun and fulfillment. This was the message of Pepsi's brand ambassadors when they were introduced to the media last Sept. 29 at Mesay in Makati.

"Sunday" star Aiza Seguerra—endorser for the soda brand for the second year now—leads Pepsi's pack of passion-filled souls living life to the fullest. Apart from performing, Aiza is also in love with surfing, catching monstrous waves in Baler whenever possible.

Three dish fans join the bubbly artist as Pepsi ambassadors, highlighting the unlimited brand's youthful vibrance and powerful appeal worldwide. How does Aiza feel about the newcomers?

"It's nice to know that the Pepsi family is growing," he said. "I'm so excited to welcome dynamic and energetic young people who share the same daring spirit that I have."

The youngest among the bunch is Malou Guidolin, the 13-year-old international karting champion from Cebu who has wowed local and international racing fans, especially when he conquered all his competitors during the recent Asia Karting Championships. "I think it's to my blood to have this need for speed," explained Jimmy. "It's challenging, exciting and the adrenaline rush is indescribable."

What's next

So what's next for this bunch and Pepsi-dippy endorser? Apart from preparing for another race that would determine who the Philippine champion is, Malou will also voice the male character in "Minbaqi," an animated show premiering on Nickelodeon this Oct. 9.

Another addition to the Pepsi family of endorsers—which include Daniel Bedshaw, Heyward, Britney Spears and P4 member Yanno Wu—is Pinoy rock star Rainbow Mathalic, lead vocalist of the band that bears his name. It's a no-brainer what this musician is crazy about. "Music is my life," he said. "It's my form of expression and my passion."

The vocalist said his bandmates were happy for his/her become a Pepsi endorser. "It was sort of a one-person's success to everyone's success sort of thing," he said. "So my fans it in some sort, ain't mats, it's good for the band."

The only female in the group is striking beauty Nicole Hernandez, an acclaimed model with a long list of magazine covers, commercials and impressive grades to her name. Fashion is Nicole's passion and it's not just going to stop at modeling for this lovely lady. She's flying to New York next year to chase her dreams. "I'm going to study first there then try it out," she shares.

Freshness, vibrancy and passion—these are the common denominators of the four Pepsi endorsers. They embody the brand's "Enjoy Me "G" campaign. Pepsi vice president for marketing Marivelle Maroño explained: "the Pepsi-Anthem invites pursue their passions and dare to face all the challenges that come their way. The end result—more fruitful, enjoyable, fulfilled lives. It is this attitude and drive that Pepsi celebrates, as embodied by its campaign, "Enjoy Me "Be."

A NEW breed of endorsers: Bamboo, Malou, Nicole and Jericho

Glam on the cheap

IF THE BIG-BUCK ITEMS FROM last week caused a stir among my readers, I can just imagine the excitement this week's list list will elicit.

Here are the best beauty buys you could ever lay your hands on, just as I promised. Crank open those piggy banks now!

The key to managing your bikja finances isn't finding the cheapest product on the shelves. It's finding the diamonds in the rough—items that are at par with high-end brands, quality-wise, but are friendly on the budget.

There are plenty of alternatives that will do the job for a fraction of the price.

Twenty colors for each blush shames blue shadow, emerald green liner... Do mind them for your 50s themed party, not every single day. If you need to add less-than-chaste shades to your kit, it is a definite deed to dig into your life savings to purchase them.

A lot of loyal brands have a great selection of long-wearing eye shadow in a wide array of colors (yes, including the taboo-hued eye colors) you can afford straight out of your meager allowance.

Try loving the eye shadow palettes by Fashion 21 that are equivalent to your daily allowance of Grande Frappuccino. I rush over to their counter when hit with a sudden need for shades (normally semi-cozy to my collection. Also try YDV eye shadows. Their basic shades stay put, don't crease and won't cost you an arm and a leg.

Cheek Thee. Sure, you wear this every day. It has become such a part of your routine that you've practically forgotten how you look without. OOPS.

Why spend so much on something people can't even tell you're wearing? Cheek Tint does not disguise imperfections or even out your complexion the way foundation does—it can be considered icing on the cake.

It's a big list of a number of lower-priced products that can easily pass for the real fare. Since Tint, My all-time favorite is Whether Up and Cheek Tint, which I sometimes layer with Yves Gilbert's Pointy smelling Up and Cheek Tint for a dewier finish. There go for P150 and P128, respectively. Now, that about is enough to make you blush, ain't it?

Mascara. Most makeup artists will bash me up when I say the best mascara in the market today belongs in the 500-and-below price range. The most important qualities to look for: non-clumping, non-stinky, waterproof, hypoallergenic.

All these can easily be found in Maybelline Great Lash Mascara. All we really need is lash thickening and a bit of enhancement. Let's leave the curling to our pointy-as-crazy eyelash curler, shall we?

Lip Gloss. The crazy bee that most girls can afford to own quite a number of lip glosses means that good ones won't necessarily coat you your forehead.

The search for the perfect lightweight formula you can build your very own lip gloss collection on is over. Found the ones as Revels. Great color selection. I found the perfect nude gloss... the gloss-nood in Petrol.

Eyeliner. Four words: Ever Bilena Eye Liner. For less than a hundred bucks, you have a non-staining formula (great for contact-lens wearers), easy to smudge texture, and a non-coarse finish. Even some expensive brands can't beat that.

Ever Bilena, Maybelline, Fashion 21 and YDV at department stores; Revels at Revels outlets; Milani at Milani Cosmetics and Robinson's Department Store.

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